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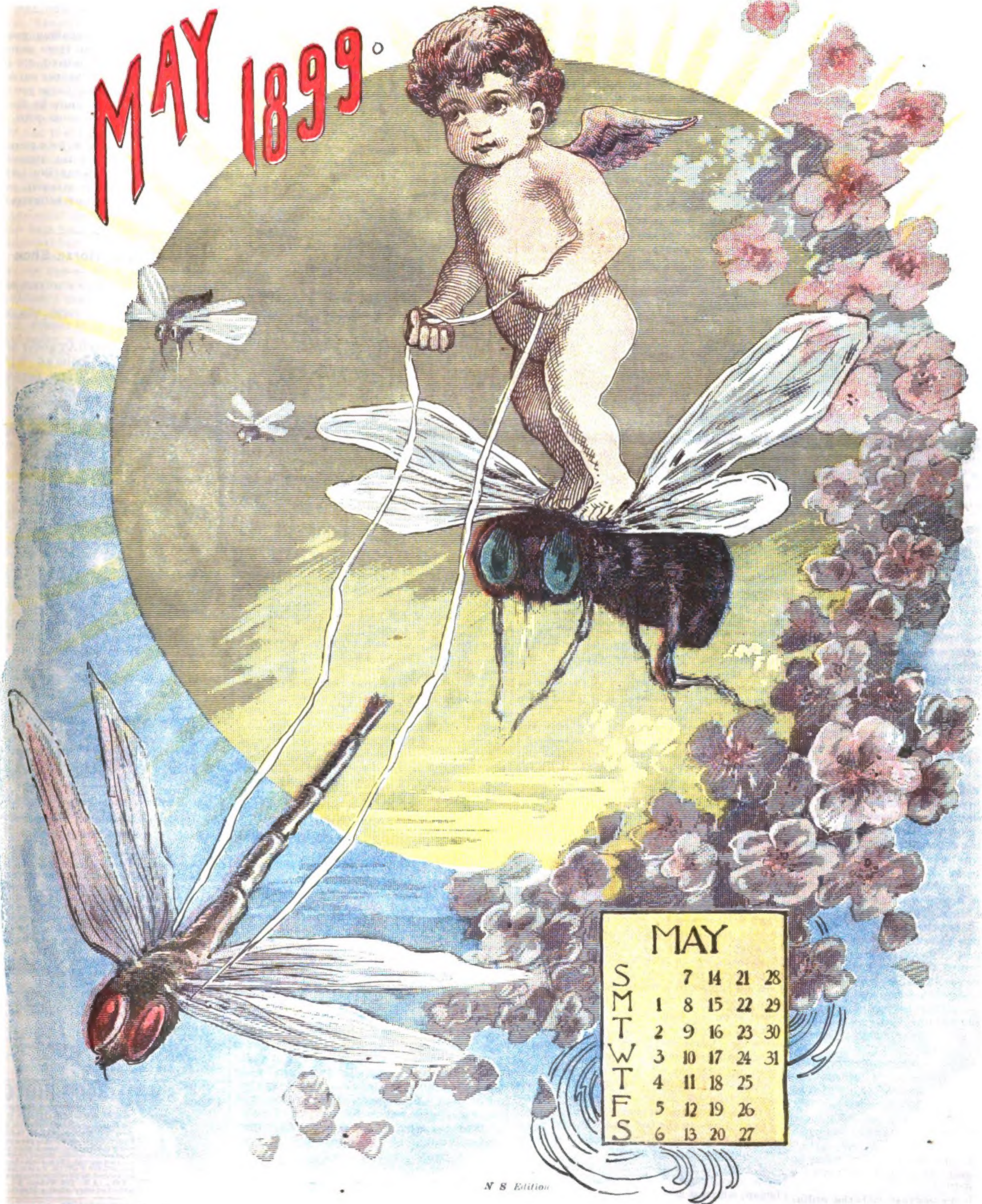
# COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON.

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MAY 1899



MAY				
S	7	14	21	28
M	1	8	15	22
T	2	9	16	23
W	3	10	17	24
T	4	11	18	25
F	5	12	19	26
S	6	13	20	27

N S Edition



PRIZE WINNERS FOR APRIL.

Edmund Vance Cooke, First Prize.  
R. H. Farnham, Jr., Second Prize.  
F. E. Burnham, Fourth Prize.  
Max Bennett Thrasher, Third Prize.  
Celia D. Gilbert, Fifth Prize.

## ROOM 407.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY EDMUND VANCE COOKE.

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"GIVE me a room," I said when I had left the record of my name and town and had jangled the pen in the raw potato provided for it.

I remember that the clerk had the smooth appearance and self-possession of his kind. Moreover he had dark hair and brows, both plentifully sprinkled with white, which fact added greatly to his impressment. He caught a glimpse of my name on the register and although he had never seen me before, he responded with a mixture of dignity and deference.

"We'll do the best we can for you, Mr. Voakes, but we're loaded to the roof," which speech displayed his standing and experience in his calling.

He was behind the desk now, running over the little slips under the room-numbers and seemingly having difficulty in discovering a place to put me.

"Did you want to go to your room at once, Mr. Voakes?"

"Just as soon as I can get it."

"I thought perhaps you were going out and I might find a better room for you a little later, after the 11.10 flyer leaves," he suggested.

"Better give me something now," I answered. "I've traveled all day and I'm tired."

He returned to his search again and presently he was joined by a little stoop-headed man, with stern eyes, looking out from under beetling brows. I could see at a glance that he was the proprietor and that while he tolerated his patrons with no unpleasantness towards them, still he was fully aware of the service he was doing us by conducting a hotel.

"We're full up," I heard the clerk say. "How about four-hundred-and-seven?"

The inset eyes twitched nervously as their owner drew nearer to the clerk and muttered something. He scanned the room-lists himself, gave the matter a few seconds consideration and nodded briefly. "Open it," he said and then I noticed that he glanced towards me almost timidly. The clerk struck the bell. "Front, tell the head-chambermaid to make up four-hundred-and-seven quick."

I saw "Front" dart a curious, half-startled glance at me and then he was off in a flash. By this time I had made up my mind that there would be "kick coming" against No. 407. Ordinarily I am not a hard mortal to please, but I have traveled long enough to learn that a man may as well have all the comfort he is paying for and dignified hotel-clerks with white-streaked hair and distinguished airs respect him none the more if he allows himself to be imposed upon. I waited as patiently as I could and was very shortly rewarded by the information that my room awaited its occupant. Another "Front" grasped "key 407" and my satchel and escorted me to the elevator. "Floor!" ejaculated the elevator-boy grumpily to the bell-boy.

It was a very small thing, but I noticed that instead of giving a direct answer, my little guide thrust the brass key-tag under the eyes of his questioner. His eyes were shining and his lips were parted in a half-grin to which was added a subdued cast of awesome excitement.

The sluggish elevator-operator glanced at the key and I could see that even his interest was quickened and the "Swanee River," which he was softly whistling, suddenly ceased to flow.

The bell-boy made a remark or two apropos of nothing on the way down the hall and when we came to the room he dropped my "grip," fumbled away at the key-hole and when he flung the door open, he stepped back with a "Here you are, sir!"

Now everybody knows that it is the ordinary habit of the genus bell-boy to rush into the room, make a light, throw open the window and ask the guest if anything more is wanted. "Make a light!" I said, with a touch of impatience. "Is it gas, or electric?"

"Gas, sir," answered the boy, producing some matches, but still standing at the door. "Would you please to light it, sir. I'm too short to reach it, but it's right there," and he pointed into the darkness.

I struck a match and lit the gas and examined the room critically, and somewhat disappointedly, for I could see no slightest cause for complaint, beyond a somewhat close and oppressive atmosphere. I took the first step towards remedying this by throwing the window wide open and noticed that it opened on the platform of a fire-escape. I always make it a point to notice the "provisions in case of a fire" in a hotel anyway. I turned back and saw that the bell-boy had not gone, but still stood at the door.

"If you want anything," he said, "you can ring the bell, you know."

I looked at the boy amusedly. What had I done that he should take me for a benighted being unused to hotel bells? Or was he waiting for a tip? "Thank you," I responded, "I'll ring for you to come up and blow out the gas. Meanwhile, I wish you'd bring me some ice-water and a little stationery."

He was back with these in a jiffy. "Did you want to leave a call?" he asked.

"Eight o'clock," I answered.

If I had sent a bullet at him, it could hardly have produced a greater effect than these simple words. He turned ghastly pale, shot a last glance at me and took to his heels.

I communed with myself and decided that the people around that hotel were a queer crowd, meanwhile settling myself to write a letter home, before going to bed. As it was a warm June night I made myself as comfortable as possible by removing my coat and vest, collar, cuffs and tie.

I pulled out a drawer in my dresser for the accommodation of these furnishings and as I flung them in, I noticed that the paper lining the drawer was a Buffalo Courier. That being my home town and newspaper, it gave me a little homesick twinge and at the same time attracted another glance or two. A moment later I found myself reading the following item.

"Washington, May 16—Russell Apworthy aged 35 and unmarried was found dead in a room in the Treverton hotel at 8 o'clock, last night. All the circumstances point to suicide. He registered at the hotel at 10 P. M. and left a call for 8 A. M. When called he was found dead upon the floor and partly dressed. It is regarded as significant that Apworthy was assigned to room 407. There have been three deaths by suicide in that room since April first, one of them a former mayor of Leavenworth, with whom Apworthy is said to have been acquainted. It was a peculiar coincidence that in every case the suicide left a call for 8 A. M."

I have no hesitation in declaring that a shudder of alarm ran over me as I read that item and then I glanced around hastily and fearfully, though the gas lit the room up brightly. I looked at every corner. I looked in the closet. I scanned the walls for unsuspected doors, I even looked under the bed! "Bosh!" I said, "I've never committed suicide yet and I sha'n't to-night. What is there to be afraid of, anyway? But Apworthy, Apworthy; that name is odd, yet it sounds familiar."

I wrote my letter and then concluded I would turn in. I was sleepily standing before the glass preparatory to disrobing, when my glance caught the reflection of a human form, half crouched on my window-ledge and framed by my open window. It looked as if it had flown from somewhere and alighted there.

I have heard of hearts standing still and blood suddenly stagnating in the veins, but I never experienced the sensation before that moment. However, I am quite satisfied with the one experience. I want it repeated never.

I whirled in my tracks and then my heart gave a great bound and struggled to regain operations.

"Hello, Ha! Voakes!" laughed the figure, entering, "don't you know me?"

"Logan!" I gasped; then the room spun around and a blackness surged up over my eyes. Just why I should have held up until I recognized my old school-friend, Logan, whom I had neither seen nor heard from for several months, and then should have caved in, I do not know. Perhaps it was because I realized, then, that I was in good hands and there was no particular reason why I shouldn't give way. I am not subject to anything of the kind and have never fainted before or since, but the oppressiveness of that room and the different trifles of the evening had combined to unnerve me. Logan and I had been friends for years, but a few months previously we had both taken up new pursuits and as he lived in St. Louis and I in Buffalo, we had allowed our former friendly interest to suffer a lapse.

I think I remained unconscious but a minute or two. I was on the bed when I opened my eyes and I struggled up very much dazed and very much ashamed of myself.

"I must say you give a fellow a cordial welcome when he returns from Mexico," laughed Logan, who was always merry and always doing and saying the unexpected.

"Mexico! I didn't know you had been there. We—we must talk it over in the morning."

"Yes," he said. "I didn't know my appearance would shock you so, but it's this

devilish hotel. I've had a prejudice against it ever since April first."

"April first," I repeated, vaguely forgetting for the moment the date of the first suicide mentioned in the article, but noticing that my companion had grown grave.

"Yes; don't let's talk about it," he answered and then with his old, well-remembered, quizzical air, he added, "I know why you are here. Why will you do it? I suppose there's no stopping you, though. Ah me, the force of bad examples! But there! I'm going to leave you. You need a good sound sleep. You're sure you're all right, are you? Lots of courage and all that? Well, I'll see you in the morning."

He slipped out of the door and then he thrust his head back in again to say, "By the way, we must look up Apworthy in the morning. You remember him? A mighty jolly, good fellow. Don't you recall him? I introduced you to him in Leavenworth one time. He was stopping with his friend, the Mayor."

Of the night which I put in in that room, I shall say nothing. Suffice it that long before my call for 8 A. M., I was down in the office. The clerk of the *distingue* air was still on duty and I went up to him. "Look here, my friend," I said, "if you ever give me room four-hundred-and-seven again, it will result in something more than a suicide." It was worth a night of horrors to notice the wilt of that clerk's assurance.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"I mean that there have been three cases of suicide in four-hundred-and-seven since April first and it's a deuced uncanny room to sleep in."

"Who told you that?" demanded the clerk.

"Nobody told me. I found it out for myself last night, after I reached my room," I retorted, enjoying his discomfort.

The clerk's face was a study. "Well," said he after a pause, "did you—did you see anything?"

I preferred to change the subject at this point, so I responded with a brief "Maybe;" and added "by the way, what's the number of Mr. Logan's room?"

To my surprise, the clerk exhibited more concern than ever.

"There's no Mr. Logan staying here!" he cried, with unnecessary emphasis, as it struck me.

"Why there must be!" I exclaimed in turn. "He was in my room last night."

The clerk swallowed something and wet his lips before he answered slowly: "You say you saw Mr. Logan in your room last night?"

"Certainly."

He leaned over the counter and said in a strained voice: "A bell-boy, a chambermaid, the night-porter and, now, you have all told me that Mr. Logan was seen in the hotel last night. I don't know how you know it, but Logan was the name of the man who occupied four-hundred-and-seven on the night of April first."

"Andrew Logan!" I gasped, "the first suicide?"

"No, not Andrew Logan, Albert Logan. See here!" He turned to April first on the register and showed me the signature—"Albert Logan, Mexico City, Mex."

I said nothing, but I sat down and tried to think. "Albert Logan? Why, yes, Andrew's twin brother. He had been in Mexico for years. There was no ghost about it. I had seen Albert and—," then there flashed on me the struggling bits of conversation of the previous night. The mysterious allusions to his return from Mexico, to April first, to Apworthy and the Mayor of Leavenworth. It had been *Albert Logan I had seen*.

And his assertion that he had known why I was there and he would see me in the morning and we would see those other unfortunate self-slayers! Surely he must have meant that I was designed for the next victim. Ugh! my flesh crawled when I considered it all.

"Mr. Clerk," I said, "send up for my grip. I'm going to leave."

"I can give you another room," he suggested humbly.

"Not in this town, you can't," I retorted firmly.

He shook my hand at parting and remarked solemnly: "If I ever assign four-hundred-and-seven again, I hope I'll hang for it."

I reached Buffalo in good time, though I had a strong notion to go to St. Louis instead, look up my old chum and tell him of my wonderful interview with his dead brother. It was lucky I didn't, however, for I was only back a day or two when I received a telegram dated from Pittsburgh and signed by my old chum. He was coming to see me. I went down to the train filled full of the long startling story I had for him. His first words, as he came through the station-gate, knocked it clear out of me.

"Why the mischief did you run away from me in Washington?" he demanded.

"From you?" I cried.

"Yes, from me," he retorted, laughing at my amazed countenance. "And when I went to look you up at the Treverton that morning, I thought the clerk would have a spasm. Why, they pretty nearly called the Fire Department to put me out!"

"Hold on, Andrew!" I cried. "For Heaven's sake, let me get this by degrees. How did you

happen to come in through my window like Poe's 'grim, ungainly, ghastly' raven?"

"Just one of my jokes, of course. I had a room at the St. Elmo, which runs back and jogs against the Treverton. You had your window up and a bright light burning and I could see you from my room as plainly as I can this minute. I discovered that the two fire-escapes came together, so I crawled out on mine, over to yours and into your window. I thought I'd surprise you—and I did."

"And Mexico?"

"I have just come from there, settling up poor Bert's affairs. The shock of his death and the time it has taken to straighten out his estate explain why you haven't heard from me lately."

"And Apworthy and the Mayor of Leavenworth?"

"Say, that's sad," he answered in a sober tone. "Apworthy was a splendid fellow. I didn't know much about his friend, the Mayor. When I spoke to you I just remembered that Apworthy had written me that he and the Mayor were going to Washington to spend several weeks. I didn't know of their following poor Bert till it all came out at the hotel the other morning."

"But didn't you say something about knowing why I was there and—and that sort of thing?"

"Of course I did. I was chaffing you a little, pretending that you were there to look after your fences with Miss Winifred, for I confess her sister had a strong influence on my being in Washington. I didn't know you were in four-hundred-and-seven and in fact never knew the number of the room poor Bert occupied."

I gazed at him in silence for a moment and then I said, "well, you are the biggest failure of a ghost I ever saw in my life. After you have a dead sure case for yourself, you come around and don't leave your believers a thread to hang by!"

## The Mascot of Horse Shoe Hill.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY R. H. FARNHAM, JR.

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"HAT about him?" exclaimed old Bill Greves, pausing in his work of stuffing "longcut" into the blackened bowl of his clay pipe, to glance around the room in surprise. "It used to be hard to find people in these parts who had never heard of him; let alone those that claimed they had seen him. But, then," after a pause, "that was years ago. But I shall remember him as long as I live, gentlemen, for I saw him once myself." A

silence of expectancy followed, and while the snowed-in crews settled themselves comfortably in the warmth of the whitewashed stove, the old man lighted his pipe and proceeded:

"Any of you fellows who ever traveled over the 'Sunderland Valley' as long as fifteen years ago know all about the Horse Shoe Hill—com-

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The great English scientist, Huxley, said the best start in life is a sound stomach. Weak stomachs fail to digest food properly because they lack the proper quantity of digestive acids (lactic and hydrochloric) and peptogenic products; the most sensible remedy in all cases of indigestion is to take after each meal one or two of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets because they supply in a pleasant harmless form all the elements that weak stomachs lack.

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T. S. DENISON, Publisher, Chicago, Ill.

ing up around the mountain there out of Limesville, fifty feet to the mile, crooked as its name, and running over two of the riskiest bridges that ever held up a train. Why they ever built over such a hill instead of tunneling, most people could never understand; but the reason for it is connected with my story. It seemed that when the road was first talked of they made two different surveys. One of these ran the line over the mountain as it was afterwards built, and the other took it through the range by a tunnel. Most of the stockholders wanted to run the line through the mountain because they thought the hill line would be so dangerous as to make the road unpopular. But there was a man named Graham connected with the concern—a hard, miserly man—who voted against this idea because he thought the hill line would be cheaper to build. He said that danger was not a thing for the stockholders to consider, for the freight traffic would support the road, so if people didn't want to ride over it they could walk. Now it was all very well for him to talk that way, but he knew, the same as all of them knew, that the road would be the only outlet for the travel and commerce of the whole region, and that of course the passenger traffic would be large. But the old man held out with his majority of the shares, though the others beat him out as far as numbers went, and the line was built over the hill. But it wasn't much of a victory. The very first train over the road, after the construction trains had been taken off, was wrecked at the upper bridge, and Graham's wife and child were killed.

"The old man went stark crazy after that, and they had to shut him up at Boynton and put a guard over him. But he broke away from them one night and got out, and nobody ever knew exactly what became of him. There was a body found in the Ossetomanie shortly afterwards which was supposed to be Graham's, but nobody could identify it positively.

"It must have been a month after this that I was promoted from firing to pulling extra freight, and about the same time, too, that a brakeman on one of the night runs began to tell about frequently passing a strange acting man on different parts of the big grade. The stranger was described as an old man with white hair, dressed in one of these long frock coats, but never wearing a hat or carrying a lantern. He was generally seen hanging around in the woods or on the track near the upper bridge. Sometimes he was examining the masonry of the retaining walls, or again testing loose joints along the track after the train had passed.

"It wasn't long before one or two of the other boys got glimpses of him, and he was always about the same. Finally one morning the trackwalker found that some loose stones in the masonry of the bridge had shaken loose in the night, but had been propped into place with a lot of heavy ties, which had kept the bridge from falling. This caused a good deal of excitement, and most of the boys said it was clear as glass that it was old man Graham's ghost up there, trying to square himself. There were two sides to that opinion, though, and finally the holders of the opinions compromised and agreed to call it a Mascot, which it certainly had been. I don't pretend to say what else it might have been. I'm only going to tell you the speech of people, and just what I saw myself.

"We didn't have any regular time—of course running extra, and quite often we would hit the big hill at night, going or coming. I used to look for the Mascot often enough, but it seemed as if I should never get to see him. Finally there came a day when I felt that if there was a Mascot around anywhere I needed him pretty badly. We had hard luck from the beginning of our run that day. First Jack McCann, one of our brakemen, got his hand smashed making a coupling at Gregory; and it wasn't twenty miles further on that we struck a team at the Blue Cut highway crossing and killed the old man that was driving. I was wishing that the third misfortune would happen quick, so as to have it all done and over with, but it didn't come. My fireman got down at our next stop and found a four leaf clover and put it in his shoe. I never took much stock in that sort of thing anyway, and it just showed me that he wasn't feeling very easy himself. But nothing happened, good or bad, aside from the engine steaming badly, and we pulled into Boltonville, the end of our run.

"We had to double right out of Boltonville again, and with our own switching to do we didn't have much chance to get rested and settle down. But after we'd got our train made up, and were lying in the yard waiting orders we had a little time to think; and just at this time it began to rain.

"Now you know as well as I do how nasty weather will affect a man when he's got the blues. My fireman, Tom King, put up the curtains in the gangway to keep out the storm, and both of us just sat there and watched the drops of water trickling down the cab windows, and never saying a word. I was pretty young then, and hadn't seen much of death, and it seemed to me all the time we sat there that I could see the face of that man we'd run into that morning looking in from the dark outside.

"We got our orders at last and pulled out. I remember standing up and waving my hand to

## THE GENTLEMANLY RATTLE-SNAKE.

### CONTRASTED WITH THE GHOULISH GERM.

Imagine a man's path leading him through a section of country in which there were millions of rattlesnakes! With what caution and circumspection he would take every step. He would however, have a fair chance of coming to his journey's end in safety, because a rattlesnake, like an old-fashioned clock, warns before it strikes. The rattlesnake stands as the type of the deadliest foes of the human race. But there are foes quite as deadly and more to be feared than rattlesnakes. Germs that strike at the vital centers of life; germs of foul diseases deadly as the venom of the snake, and giving no warning of their presence, infest the air we breathe, the water we drink. Once introduced into the blood they multiply with fearful rapidity, absolutely eating up the



very principle of life. Compared with a disease germ a rattlesnake is a gentleman. He is a fair fighter. He tells you to look out. You have a chance to fight or run. The disease germ sneaks upon you. It comes while you are sleeping. It gains an entrance to the blood. In a few days or even hours it multiplies to millions until your blood is full of its offspring. They go all over the body seeking a weak spot. They don't rattle—they strike.

"The blood is the life," and the germ assaults the blood. The microscope reveals the germ of malaria, honeycombing the health by devitalizing the red corpuscles. You've cracked a hazel nut sometime and found in it nothing but dust and a little white worm. The meat of the nut is all eaten up. The malaria germ eats out the vital principle of the corpuscles in just that way. The result is collapse. The thought of a rattlesnake frightens us. Yet the snake is not one tithe as dangerous as the little germ, mining, like a mole, a passageway along the veins and arteries by which it is preparing to assault the citadel of life.

The condition of the blood which indicates the undermining presence of disease germs is marked by languor, a feeling of sluggishness, dull headache, inability to make any effort in business and indifference to all forms of pleasure. The appetite is bad, the breath foul. Disturbing dreams rob the sleep of all refreshing influence. There is nervousness and irritation. The blood seems hot in the fingers and there are hot flushes all over the body. The eyes burn, and specks seem to float before them. These symptoms will not all be present at once, as they belong to different stages of disease; nor is it probable any one person will experience them all. But any of such symptoms indicate the prompt need of a tonic, a medicine that will put vitality into the blood enough to give it strength to destroy and cast out the invading germs.

In such a condition the remarkable efficacy of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has been proved over and over again in thousands of cases. Acting directly on the organs of digestion and nutrition, and upon the blood-making glands, its first influence is to strengthen the entire system, clearing away obstructions and carrying away effete matter and poisonous accumulations. The blood is enriched and the germs of disease, which like all other parasites flourish best in filth, forsake the blood which is cleansed of its filthy accumulations. "Golden Medical Discovery" works with Nature. It comes to Nature when she is worn out with fighting, just like a timely reinforcement bringing food and ammunition, and with new strength and power Nature battles against disease and overcomes it.

There is no alcohol, whisky or other stimulant in Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. That is a point to bear in mind when considering the value of a tonic medicine. Most so-called tonics are loaded with alcohol. They only brace up for the time, re-acting injuriously upon the diseased system.

"I was troubled with malarial fever and was under doctor's care for quite a time," writes Mr. J. F. Kidd, of Parmleysville, Wayne Co., Ky. "They had almost given me up, and my suffering was very great. My pulse was weak, breath short and I had severe pains in back, head and legs. Had palpitation of heart, and from June 1st, 1895, to May 1st, 1898, I was not able to do a day's work. I purchased five bottles of Dr. R. V. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and before I had finished taking the first two bottles I was very much better of my disease of three years' standing. I continued

taking the medicine, and by the time the fifth bottle was gone I was a well man. I can cheerfully recommend Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery to any similar sufferer."

Such testimony as this is the most practical and convincing argument which can be advanced for the healing and invigorating power of the "Golden Medical Discovery." Thousands upon thousands have used it and ninety-eight per cent. of these have found a cure even when vitality had fallen to a low ebb, and distressing cough, bleeding at the lungs and other serious symptoms had appeared.

"Words fail to express what I suffered for three years, with cold chills, palpitation of heart, shortness of breath, and low spirits," writes Mrs. A. C. Jones, of Walterboro, Colleton Co., S. C. "I could not sleep and really thought I would soon die. Had a peculiar roaring through my head all the time. Was so emaciated and weak I could not feed myself. My aunt induced me to try Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, which I did, only to please her, and six bottles cured me. To-day I am sound and well. During the three years I was sick I had five different physicians."

The dealer who offers a substitute for "Golden Medical Discovery" filches not only his customers' money to make an extra profit, but also his health. For there is no other medicine "just as good" as "Golden Medical Discovery" for the stomach, blood and lungs. Insist upon having the "Discovery."

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is a helpful book. Within its 1008 pages may be found an answer to almost every question concerning human physiology and reproduction, with specific instructions for nursing and the treatment of disease which will save any family hundreds of dollars. This book is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay the expense of mailing only. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the paper edition, or 31 stamps for the cloth edition. Address, Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

the operator at the registry station, and he was a fellow I had never liked very well, either. Then I began to see what a fool I was, and I said to myself: 'See here, Bill, you brace up, and quit acting like an old woman.'

"Out on the line the storm was heavier, and there was quite a bit of lightning. We made pretty slow time on account of poor steaming, and we had to use sand on all the grades. But we pounded off the miles without any mishap; and after we'd stopped for water three times and found everything all right I was breathing a good deal easier.

"Then we came into the mountain district, and there the storm seemed to get worse every minute. I never saw such lightning before nor since, and that thunder boomed and grated till I swear I thought the cab windows would break with the jar. It wasn't far from three o'clock when we got to the top of the big hill. There were no air brakes on freight engines in those days and I was a little afraid of the grade because we'd used up all our sand. But my fireman and I set the tank brake, and I shut off and reversed, and thought I wouldn't call the boys out on deck in the storm unless it became necessary.

"We began to drop down the hill at a good sharp pace. We rounded the upper curve at 25 miles an hour, and swung into the reverse below with a lurch that nearly threw me from my seat. Then we were moving! The engine was rolling heavily, and the rattle of the drivers over the low joints came so fast that, for a fact, the rails seemed only about a yard long; and the noise we made running by those rocky walls was something awful.

"Pretty soon the lightning showed up one of those little mountain road crossings, where the 'corduroy' crosses the track. They seldom use those roads at night, but for some reason I can't explain I reached for the whistle rope and blew a crossing signal that could have been heard in Limesville. Ten minutes later we swung around the last curve and onto the long tangent that drops straight to the bottom of the hill.

"As we came around I thought I caught a glimpse of a light, way ahead. I yelled to King to watch and hung out my window to look for it. It was a light sure enough—a very small one, and about a mile ahead. King thought it looked like a fire on the track; but I was sure I saw it move. The next instant my heart almost stood still, for I placed the thing exactly; it was at the upper bridge! And it moved—I was sure of it—making the stop signal right across the track.

"I whistled for brakes, and sent King back to help the boys with the train. Then I opened the throttle on the reversed engine; but the rail was like grease, and the drivers backed without holding us up at all. We were so close now that I could make out the figure of a man, standing on the edge of the abutment and waving some kind of a blazing torch. Then the figure would get kind of indistinct, or as though you could see through it, and behind it I saw the bridge was blazing. It was the Mascot! I knew it in a minute, by the boys' description. I couldn't make out his face, but I could see his long coat, and made out his white hair as distinctly as I see you now. But glad as I was to see him, it looked as if he had come

too late. Even then half the wheels on the train were sliding, and our speed was no slower. Suddenly while I was watching him he gave a fearful yell, and the bridge went down behind him and carried him into the swollen stream.

"I made up my mind it was all up, and jumped for the gangway. But at the same moment we ran into something gritty on the rails. The drivers caught it and almost stood still, and then it took hold of the sliding wheels of the tank. I climbed back to my seat and opened the cylinder cocks to relieve the awful pressure, and in a minute more we came to a standstill within thirty feet of the place where the bridge had been.

"We found the rails covered with sand for some distance back—some of the boys thought it had washed down from the mountain, but if they'd been in the cab they would have known better. The bit of the bridge that was left was still smoking; it had been struck by lightning. "The Mascot never was heard of again.

"Now I've had people laugh at this experience of mine, and they can do so if they want to; but you can't tell me that when sand comes down a mountain side and deposits itself on the rail to save a train, and burning bridges go waving a stop signal, that there isn't something supernatural going on somewhere; and especially under circumstances such as I have described.

"But it's all past now, and the scene of it is gone too; for the very next year after the bridge burned the company abandoned the hill line, and tunneled through the mountain as they had first intended."

## JULIUS WESTON'S DILEMMA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FREDERICK E. BURNHAM.

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JULIUS Weston was a detective in the employ of one of the largest secret service bureaus of the East. Such being the case it is not at all strange that one Saturday evening he was suddenly detailed to shadow two suspected forgers and counterfeiters who had for some reason best known to themselves shown to the city two clean pair of heels.

The detective managed to send a brief note to his wife, stating he was about to take the limited, west bound express and might not return for a fortnight. That was the last that any one knew of the detective. The express met with an accident, a dozen passengers were killed and more than two score wounded. It was generally conceded that the detective was one of three individuals who were so fearfully mangled as to be unrecognizable.

Years passed and Julius Weston's wife died and was buried in the churchyard. A marble slab marked her resting place and the inscription told the passerby that Julius Weston likewise had passed away.

Julius Weston was busy laying his plans while he journeyed on the trail of the fugitives. Suddenly he was thrown violently forward in his seat, and the next instant there came a terrific crash, the forward car telescoping his own, completely demolishing it, and killing outright a number of its occupants, and wounding many others. The detective was among those injured.

The next thing that Weston realized after that frightful crash, he was lying on a cot in a hospital with his head bandaged. He looked about him in a wondering sort of a way, quite unable to understand what it all meant. The doctor asked him his name, but the poor fellow, try as he would, could not recall it, nor, indeed, anything connected with his past. It seemed to him as though he had just been born into the busy world.

One morning he was walking down one of the side streets of the city when his attention was called to two flashily dressed young men who were sauntering along just ahead of him. Something about the young men half awoke a train of recollection. Scarcely knowing why, Weston followed the strangers about from place to place, an irresistible desire seizing him to shadow the men, if need be, to the end of the earth. Finally he located their hotel and learned that they had been stopping there for several weeks. They spent money freely and intermingled with the wealthy young men of the city. The clerk at the desk said that they were brothers, sons of a coal baron. Why did they interest Weston?

Money! Fraud! Counterfeit!

Again and again did those words ring in his ears as he followed the two men about the city. Their faces seemed to be a connecting link between the present and the past, yet a mist ever hung between which he could not penetrate.

One morning he made a fool of himself, as

he said. Growing desperate he called at the police station and told the captain that there were two rascals stopping at the Q— Hotel and he wanted warrants issued for their arrest. "Your proof?"

Julius Weston was confounded. He looked at the chief blankly for a moment and bowing his head, left the office deeply chagrined.

The chief smiled and remarked that another crank had materialized. He detailed a "shadow" to follow the stranger and presently the trail led to the hotel where the two suspected men were stopping.

Two hours later the chief received a message from the "shadow," asking that warrants for the arrest of the Cary Brothers, notorious counterfeiters and forgers, be issued and sent without delay.

The chief wondered who the strange man was who had furnished such valuable information. He questioned him sharply, but the poor fellow could not even remember his name. The bureau soon learned that this man with no past was a marvel. The most difficult threads he followed with ease. Criminals who had long baffled the shrewdest detectives were no match for his cunning. One after another they were rounded up until the old "sleuths" were green with envy.

Constantly were things occurring which sorely troubled Weston's mind. Almost could he recall the past. Now he saw a face that brought back a forgotten incident, but ever was there a mist before it and he saw no more. The odor of a flower reminded him of a place of glad memories, yet the picture vanished ere he could complete the chain.

A peculiar dish of food brought before him a scene that appealed vividly to his mind; almost could he see those gathered about the board, and sometimes he thought he caught the sound of their voices.

Unhappy Weston! The faces he could see outlined slowly vanished with no feature distinctly visible. The voices of those who spoke never rose above a murmur. Cursing the fate that hid his past, he pursued his calling with grim determination. He could trace criminals with the keen scent of a Cuban bloodhound, but he was powerless to learn anything of his own past.

Tortured in his own mind by the conflicting emotions which gave him no rest day or night, he consulted with the leading physicians, hoping to find some relief. One and all agreed that a portion of the skull rested upon the brain, resulting in a partial paralysis, but no physician was willing to undertake the removal of the fragment of bone.

It was while passing along the street one morning that a remarkable occurrence took place. Workmen had been digging a trench and a board was thrown across for pedestrians to walk upon. Intent upon his paper, Weston walked into the pit, receiving a severe shaking up. That fall accomplished what the doctors had feared to attempt. Instantly was Weston's mind as clear as a bell.

"We're wrecked!" Those were the first words that passed Weston's lips.

"Help! Help! Help! I can't move!" A half dozen workmen rushed to his assistance and he gazed at them in astonishment. "Where am I? We're wrecked? I'm mad! mad! mad!"

Darting away from the astonished men, he rushed down one street and up another, firmly convinced that he had lost his reason. And it was not to be wondered at, for the last thing that he remembered was the terrible crash of the two trains and the subsequent shrieks of the wounded and dying; the next instant, so far as he was concerned, he awoke to find himself in a pit where workmen were shoveling dirt. The transition was too sudden. For a time Weston was indeed crazy. Gradually, however, he grew calmer and looked about him. All seemed strange. He remembered nothing of the city, save in a hazy sort of a way, similar to his recollection of his past prior to his fall.

He asked the name of the city and learned that he was more than one thousand miles from the scene of the disaster which had clouded his mind. He stepped into a telegraph office, thinking to wire his wife that he had received no serious injury in the collision.

"What's this?" asked the operator, noting the message and eying Weston sharply.

"Limited express wrecked? There has been no wreck that I know of. What are you thinking about, old man?"

"No wreck?" said Weston, feebly, turning away. "I guess I'm not feeling just right."

At the depot he learned that a train left for the East within a half-hour. Buying a through-ticket he was presently on his way. All that day and the following night he traveled. Everything seemed strange to him. The papers told him astounding things. Who was President Garfield who had been assassinated? The last president that he remembered anything about was President Lincoln.

Seeing his face in the glass for the first time since his fall, he was surprised to find himself strangely changed. His former jet-black hair and moustache were now snow-white.

At last he arrived, but how wonderfully metamorphosed was everything. Where had been vacant fields, stood trim houses. Where formerly were dwelling-houses, now great structures of granite and brick had been reared. Pausing here and there as he wended his way homeward he wiped the perspiration from his brow.

There he stood! He knew the neat little cottage where he had lived with his family those happy years. The same vine was growing over the door and apple-trees shaded the porch, only they seemed much larger than when he went away. Somehow a growing distrust of his own senses was fast taking possession of him. He wondered if his wife and children had likewise changed since he had left them. For an instant he hesitated before opening the door, then, summoning all his courage, threw it open, and was surprised to find himself face to face with a strange man who demanded his business.

"Business?" he shouted, seizing the man and hurling him down the steps. "Business? what is your business in my home?"

Now he noticed for the first time the children who had been playing about the house. They were about the age of his own, but they were not his children. The woman who now stood where the stranger was when he had laid violent hands upon him, was not his wife. No, she was brandishing a chair high above her head, the personification of the Furies. Goaded on by the sight, Weston leaped at her, dragging her from the house, and tumbling the children into the street.

Rushing in, Weston banged the door behind him and turning the key in the lock was master of the situation. From room to room he

hastened calling his wife and offspring by name, begging them to return to him. But they came not, and no answer did he hear save the echo of his own voice and the growing uproar in the street.

The police had arrived and were battering down the door, when, enraged to the last degree, Weston threw open the front door and shaking his fist in the faces of those before him, he fairly flew from the house, successfully eluding his pursuers. Two hours later he appeared at the office where formerly the secret-service had its quarters. A dapper little man stepped up to him and demanded his business.

"I have no business, sir," said he, sadly, "but I would that I could meet with one whom I know. I left this office but yesterday on the trail of two counterfeiters, and now when I return, my family is gone, and my home is gone, and my friends I see no more, and I myself am changed."

"You are a bit off, sir," said the little man, motioning Weston to the door. "We are busy to-day, kindly disturb us no longer."

"I will trouble you no longer, or any one else, for that matter," said Weston, simply. "I know that I am not myself. I am some one else. I know not what has come over me."

To the churchyard Weston wandered, intent upon finding some quiet nook where he could reason with himself. A marble slab attracted his attention and he read the inscription.

JULIUS WESTON, DIED MAY 2, 1864.

REBECCA WESTON, DIED JULY 18, 1880.

That was too much; he staggered backward with his hand clasping his forehead. His wife was dead, and he was dead, and yet he was alive and staring at his own gravestone.

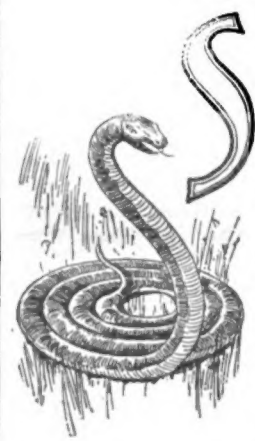
The sexton paused in his work, hearing the report of a revolver. Boys were forbidden to discharge fire-arms within the churchyard, and he hastened to the spot where he saw the puff of smoke. But no boys fled at his approach. Fallen upon the little mound, his hand clutching the still smoking revolver, was a middle-aged man, his eyes closed in death.

## The Voodoo Queen of Cagayan.

A Story of the Philippine Islands.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MAX BENNETT THRASHER.

Copyright, 1899, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



ENOR, the Voodoo Queen waits outside to see you."

The half-breed Spanish-Moro servant announced the arrival of this royal visitor with a mixture of awe and fear which was impressive. Evidently she was to him, at least, a personage not to be treated lightly.

"What next?" thought I to myself.

I had been only three days in my new position as diplomat-

ic and military representative of the United States in Cagayan, one of the Philippine Islands, to which I had been sent by order of the military governor at Manila.

Cagayan was once little more than a volcanic rock a few square miles in extent, but time has worn down the roughness of the cooled lava, covered it with soil, and grown so luxuriant a vegetation there that it is famous even among the riotous greenery of all this tropic country. The political situation in Cagayan was somewhat different from that in most of the islands. The inhabitants are almost without exceptions Moros, who had never taken kindly to the Spanish rule, and in one way or another had managed to remain almost independent. This hatred for the Spanish, though, had seemed to prepossess them in favor of the Americans, and about the time the native disturbances about Manila had been at their highest an envoy had come from Cagayan to Admiral Dewey assuring him of the loyalty of this island to the Americans. As a result it was thought well to open communication with them, and for this purpose I was sent down with a squad of soldiers. One of the gunboats which was to make a cruise through the Sulu Sea took us to Cagayan, and leaving us there was to call on her way back for dispatches, or for our return if we did not find it advisable to stay.

To tell the truth I did not feel at all sure there would be any of us left to send dispatches, or to return, so treacherous and unreliable had the natives in many of the islands proved. So far, however, everything had been quiet, and apparently peaceable.

Who the Voodoo Queen could be I did not know, nor could I guess her errand. My servant when asked, although he had talked like a parrot about everybody and everything else, was strangely silent.

"Show her in," I said.

She came, and quite involuntarily I found myself starting to rise and to say, "Be seated, Madam."

And yet she was only a black woman, blacker than the majority of the Moros, tall, of large frame without being stout, and with iron gray hair which was pushed in heavy waves back from her face beneath a dead-black turban embroidered with cabalistic designs in yellow. The very atmosphere surrounding some people commands respect. This black savage possessed that peculiar attribute as completely as any person I have ever seen.

"Senor," said she, to my surprise speaking excellent Spanish. "I ask friendship for myself and the people of this island. They are a simple people, and rightly treated can be ruled as easily as children."

I assured her that our only wish was to give the people of all the islands the fairest treatment possible. Our interview lasted for half an hour. Then she said:

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"Senor, I thank you. We are friends. You speak for your great ruler, of whom we know so little. I can answer for my people. I leave proof with you."

When she had come into the room I noticed she had brought with her an odd-shaped basket of closely woven rushes. Now, unfasting the cover of this basket she reached in, and to my horror drew out, squirming and coiling about her arm, an enormous black snake which, to my greater horror, she placed upon the floor, where, hissing venomously it coiled itself, holding its head a few inches above its body as if, to my eyes, getting ready to strike.

Wild tales of mysterious murders wrought by poisoned snake fangs flashed through my mind, and I was almost shouting for help when I saw the serpent's eyes close and his head sink quietly down upon the lustrous black coil of his body. His mistress had held out a hand over him, and this had been the result.

"Senor," said she once more, "mi serpiente a su disposicion." (My snake is yours.)

Which saying she walked out, leaving snake and basket behind. I saw her through an open window, if one may give that name to the portion of the wall of a Philippine house which swings up to admit light and air, cross the square before the house and walk away with stately carriage toward the forest. I sat and watched the snake, afraid to move. Finally I shouted for Mateo, the servant.

At the sound of my voice the reptile opened his eyes, and I felt sure he glared at me.

Mateo came, his face even yet awestruck. I suspect that he and various of his fellows had watched the whole interview through cracks in the bamboo wall of the house.

"Can't you get that thing out of here?" I asked.

"Oh, Senor. Never. The snake of the Voodoo Queen is a blessing. See, Senor. Her sign is on it."

He pointed to three white marks on the reptile's black neck, which did look as if three fingers had been laid there.

Mateo's tongue was loose enough now that he felt sure the Queen had looked favorably upon me. He told me she was not a native of the island, but was said to be the child of a Negro king, years before brought as a slave to the islands. Just how she had been freed no one knew. Some said she had killed her master and fled from the island which had been her home, to Cagayan, where she had gone into the forest to live, surrounded by a truly awful bodyguard of snakes and powerful conjure-charms. The natives had come to have a respect for her skill as a doctress, and a fear for her occult powers which had made her more their ruler than the representatives of Spain had ever been.

While we talked the big black snake uncoiled himself and slowly glided out of the room, across the veranda, and under the house. Unlike the native houses, which are almost invariably perched on stout posts which raise them from five to twenty feet above the ground, this government house, for I had taken possession of the building which my Spanish predecessors had vacated, was raised not more than two feet from the ground, so that his snake-

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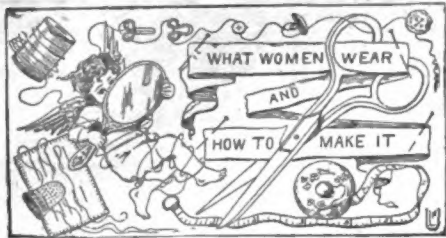
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



LOUSES are not dead. Once again I would reiterate this piece of information, knowing it will be hailed with delight by those who were once their devotees. There are many, many models being worked out on most persuasive lines by annexing the flat, rounded basque. So very fanciful has the blouse become that only a small amount of material is needed for the body, the tucked sleeves are usually of chiffon or net, as is the guimpe or vest; while for stock and belt, crosswise folds of mirror velvet (no other appeals to me in the least), are the most effective and usual finish.

The world of fashion is running a mad race, indeed, we might almost call it the whirl of fashion. Vogues follow upon one another's heels so closely we barely grasp the full meaning of a new venture than something newer and more startling is thrust upon us attracting all our serious attention.

However, all aspirants to a fashionable figure must curtail every pronounced curve or flare, into a graceful, symmetrical length which trails the floor to the space of several inches, both behind and at the sides, and as long as the front as the wearer can possibly endure without constant tripping. Skirts of draped character in some quarters show forth a tendency to claim first place and are really fascinating to a degree. A smart model has the upper straight skirt lifted at the left hip well toward the back, the fullness arranged in box pleats fastened down by a row of small buttons. The skirt known as the "shawl" pattern is becoming very popular; to wear them with good effect, however, one must be tall and slim. Certainly they can be very, very nice, exceedingly becoming, infinitely charming. To make one successful; you need a good pattern, and, if you have a certain knowledge of dressmaking, you can provide yourself with a shapely and fashionable skirt. The upper portion of this skirt fits closely around the hips and hangs in loose graceful points at the front and back; it might almost be called a polonaise, a word which takes us back to visions of a strange-looking, and, to our modern eyes, hideous gown worn years ago. But the polonaise of to-day is of the same material as the skirt beneath, and is really only a competent part of it. Many of the best skirts remain untrimmed; after exhausting brains and purses in all manner of trimming the best modistes are wondering if a plain, or at most, very slightly trimmed skirt is not more becoming, and so we have a host of smart untrimmed skirts, showing that the proverbial fickle woman has returned to the first love.

Buttons are used elaborately as a trimming, and buckles too, are dear to the heart of the fashionable woman. There is no limit to the number she may wear at one time. Belt buckles are now quite out of the running; we have buckles on our hats, they fasten our skirts at the back, they close our ties at the throat, they gleam among the lace and chiffon of our evening gowns, they nestle in the cozy folds of trimming on our skirts, in fact, they are ubiquitous, and the makers of buttons and



OF BLACK GRENADINE.

buckles, have cause to thank that erratic Dame Fashion for this particular vagary. Buckles for the neck are bound to be extremely popular

this summer; worn in the manner they now are, they do away largely with the tie. Any sort of ribbon desired is brought around the throat, drawing the linen collar in closely to the neck, the two parts of the buckle are separately attached to the ends of the ribbon, and it is clasped directly in front. It is a very smart and simple finish to be worn with shirt waists.

A peculiar sleeve was seen on a shirt waist of recent importation, made up of sheerest white muslin to be worn over a silk slip. This sleeve in question was wrinkled full from the shoulder to the elbow, from which point the sleeve took the form of a regular shirt sleeve finishing in a cuff at the wrist. Dressmakers in general seem to find it a great difficulty to find new and suitable finishings to the wrists of sleeves. Gown designers, however clever, both at home and abroad, seem to have a rooted dislike, or an inability to set forth new models for the hand trimming of sleeves. However all sorts of decorations, whatever is employed, still fall well over the hand. Elbow sleeves are extremely popular just now and are wonderfully effective when combined with a pretty arm.

Lace is largely employed as a trimming on summer gowns, adding to their airiness and delicacy. A charming illustration of this is shown in the sketch, "all-over" lace of a rather heavy pattern forming the lower part of the bodice, and upper portion of the skirt, of the dainty violet cashmere gown.

A second apt illustration of its use is shown in this case being black guipure applied in flat bands over dead white challie forming the gown. The use of black lace on light materials is being highly approved by the leading modistes. An especially fetching frock for summer wear is made up of grenadine, black, very lacey and open, showing sharp stripes



VIOLET CASHMERE AND LACE.

over the foundation of white satin. The top and bottom of the skirt flounce, as well as the smart little bodice, has an edging consisting of a four inch band of white ribbed silk set off with a piping of black velvet.

Dainty indeed are the materials being made up into gowns, each of which show some distinctive feature peculiar to the season. It is no unusual thing to see a gown of white muslin made up over a foundation consisting of firstly, a skirt of white taffeta provided with ruffles all down the back, and over this a skirt of lace edged muslin, coming directly under the outside covering. The effect is very misty and pretty, especially when the outside material is sufficiently filmy.

A stunning model I have noticed was for half mourning, made up in white muslin over white silk, all its tiny ruffles bound with tiny, narrow black velvet ribbon. The bodice has a dainty trimming of black velvet ribbon arranged in tiny lover's knots.

A particularly neat sleeve for a cloth gown has a smartly draped top brought about by a lattice-work arrangement of narrow velvet ribbon. The merest suggestion of fullness occurs in the shoulder of the latest sleeves, and it is kept as flat as possible.

The Breton cap is the latest millinery novelty, and is a charming shape and one eminently well suited to the young matron or woman past her first youth. Of course the cap worn by the Breton peasant is responsible for the evolution, the lines at the back for the most part kept intact, though in front the milliner permits the indulgence of a gentle fantasy on the theme. A very dainty example was formed of black net spangled with jet sequins, having a little hanging curtain at the back of jetted net, a large and cleverly arranged bow of burnt orange mirror velvet and tulle filling in the entire front. And this color let me tell you all, is inclined to prove a serious rival to both pink and the shaded cyclamen shades which have been quoted as chief favorites of the hour. Though to be sure, there is comfort in the reflection that the color suited to one complexion is absolutely impossible to another.

#### A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

**\$5 AND UP. 1000 SEWING MACHINES**  
Standard makes. Everyone a bargain. Various styles. Highest grade high arm machines. We are closing out the stock of a well known make at less than factory cost. We are under contract not to advertise the name for at our price it would ruin their agents. Don't miss this opportunity. WE GUARANTEE the machine for years — most for your money — satisfaction in every purchase. Shipped on approval. If not right don't keep it. A few good AGENTS WANTED. **BROWN-LEWIS CO., (E) 293 Wabash Ave., Chicago.** (This is an old house and reliable. Machine is a bargain—Editor.)

#### Invention of the Menu Card.



well to reserve his appetite. The convenience and desirability of the idea was appreciated by the guests, and from that moment the menu card became an institution. At first it was written large, so that there was room on the table for only two copies, one at either end of the board. In dinners in medieval times this list would seem to be a necessity even more than at present, for, although dinners were then divided into courses as in modern times there was no regularity to the courses, and one never knew in an "early English" dinner, what was coming next, whether fish, flesh, fowl or sweetmeats.

To remedy squeaking shoes stand the shoe in a tin plate containing just enough turpentine to touch the inner sole without reaching the upper leather. Let it soak for a day and then dry for two days before wearing, when it will be found that the shoes are not only noiseless but waterproof, and will wear much longer than without this application. Another method of breaking a shoe of squeaking is to bore a hole with a small gimlet through the inside sole near the instep. This lets out the air between the soles, and so stops the squeak. Two little slips of rubber are now often fastened across the sole of a baby's shoes at the ball of the foot to prevent the tendency to slip back which so troubles master baby when he makes his first efforts at walking.

Geologists say that the earth is at least 21,000,000 years old; that is, it is that long since the soil first formed. It is also estimated that man appeared 100,000 years ago.

### Gold Plated Chatelaine FREE

**NO MONEY REQUIRED.**  
Your choice of this beautiful old plated Chatelaine, or a gold filled ring, for selling 20 of our **LADIES' GOLD PLATED BEAUTY PINS** AT 5 CENTS EACH. (Regular price 10 cents.) **No Money Required in Advance**  
Just send us your name and address, saying you will sell the pins or return them, and we will mail them at once, on receipt of your letter. Everybody needs several of these pins. You can sell them in a few minutes at 5 cents each. Send today—don't wait.  
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dium pitcher. Freight will be about 50 cents for each 500 miles. YOU WILL SAVE ONE-HALF IN PRICE. ORDER NOW; DON'T DELAY. Write for free catalogue of everything in Crockery. Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.**

**SILVER CAKE BASKET**  
**FREE**  
We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This Silver Cake Basket is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have a few of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for \$3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us \$1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address, **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

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Jacket elegantly silk lined, skirt superbly finished, made from Dasha Celebrated Fast Color All-wool Fine Twilled Ladies' Cloth; equal every way to others \$10 Suits. Choice of electric blue, navy blue or black color.  
**SEND NO MONEY** but send this adv. with color desired; give bust and waist measure, length of skirt (down from skirtband to bottom) and we'll send the suit by express C.O.D. and allow you to try it on before you pay a cent. If found just as represented, a perfect fit and worth every penny of \$10.98, then pay the express agent \$4.98 and expressage. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory.  
**THE SUIT** is made by expert men tailors over designs drawn by that king of ladies' tailors, M. LaRochelle, from Dasha's Best All Wool Fast Color Ladies' Cloth, famous everywhere for its rich soft bloom and beautiful appearance.  
The jacket is made in latest single-breasted style, with tight-fitting back and new fashionable sleeves, it is superbly trimmed with fine satin bands, a stylish double silk-stitched and elaborately lined with real French Silk of beautiful colorings and exquisite designs. The skirt is a splendidly lined, has new fan back, nobly welted seams, is four yards wide and hangs gracefully and stylishly; from start to finish the suit's tailor-made and worth fully \$10.00.  
**SILLY FOOLISH FIRMS** advertise Repellant cloth suits as "wool"; they don't say All Wool as we do, but "wool" in order to mislead you. All Repellant cloth is shoddy and half cotton, it's worthless. Order their suits and ours, then choose between them. Write for our Big Free Bargain Catalogue of other Suits, Skirts, Capes, Jackets, etc.  
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Men's and Women's High Grade Bicycle Watches, Sewing Machines, Furniture, Cameras, Mandolins, Shoes, Tea Sets, Guns, etc., etc., can be earned by a few hours work introducing our high grade Toilet Soaps among your neighbors. No money required. We trust you. Write for our handsome illustrated catalog of over 100 premiums and full information at once. Address **BULLOCK, WARD & CO. 330-332 Dearborn St., CHICAGO, ILL.**

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### BIG JOB LOT OF SILK REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCH-WORK.

OWING to the hard times there has been dumped on the market an extra big lot of odd pieces of silk and satin that are just what ladies want for crazy patch-work. We were fortunate in securing them cheap, and will give one of our special **PATCH-UP** PACKAGES to any one sending 10c. for a three months' subscription to COMFORT, the Prize Story Magazine. Three lots and an elegant piece of SILK PLUSH contain 30 square inches, together with five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors, all for 25c. postpaid; three 25c. lots for 65c., five for \$1.00.

### A Cute Foot-Rest FREE.

Useful Ornaments are sought after at all seasons of the year. People do not realize the quantities of good that are sold through the mails. Inventors are daily trying to get up something to sell by mail that will be pretty, useful, and cheap. A pretty foot-rest could never be obtained at a low price before (they sell for \$1.00 each at the stores), but by getting up something that is turned out by machines in pretty colored durable goods, to be filled with cotton or any cheap or cast-off substance and then sewn up, we can now give a premium that will be welcome in every room in all the homes from Maine to California. It comes in the shape of a handsome **Spinal Rest-Wor.** by doctors, about 8 inches, and can always be placed for an ornament when not in use or grandeur or yourself or company as a Foot Rest. It will create untold merriment when lying in front of the fire, it is so life-like in shape and color. Although entirely new, **57,398** have already been sold, and millions more will be in use before many months. Agents will find them great sellers, and should order at least a dozen to start with.  
**BIG OFFER.** We will send a sample postpaid to anyone sending 13c., for a three months' subscription to this paper. Two Rests and this paper 6 months for 25c.; five for 50c.; one dozen, \$1.00; one Rest and 10c. lot Remnants 20c.; one Rest and 25c. lot of Remnants, 25c.  
Address **COMFORT PUB. CO., Box 133, Augusta, Maine.**

### SEND ONE DOLLAR

CUT THIS AD. OUT and send to us, and we will send you this **BIG NEW-STYLE 100-PIECE VITREOUS WHITE CHINA DINNER SET** by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and **THE GREATEST VALUE YOU EVER** obtain, pay the freight agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE \$5.95** less the \$1.00, or \$4.95, and freight charges. Freight will average about 50c. for each 500 miles.  
**THIS SET CONSISTS OF 100 PIECES**  
OF THE HIGHEST GRADE GENUINE VITREOUS WHITE CHINA of the very latest and most stylish shape, is as hard as flint, practically indestructible, pure white in color.  
**THE FOLLOWING 100 FULL-SIZE PIECES COMPLETE THE SET:** 15 soup plates, 12 5-inch plates, 12 7-inch plates, 12 coffee cups, 12 saucers, 12 individual butter dishes, 12 4-inch fruit plates, 1 8-inch platter, 1 12-inch platter, 1 7-inch baker, 1 8-inch baker, 1 8-inch covered dish, 1 pickle dish, 1 sauce boat, 1 covered butter dish, 1 sugar bowl, 1 extra bowl, 1 large pitcher, 1 medium pitcher. Freight will be about 50 cents for each 500 miles. YOU WILL SAVE ONE-HALF IN PRICE. ORDER NOW; DON'T DELAY. Write for free catalogue of everything in Crockery. Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.**

## A Month in Our New Possessions.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



**B**UT a few years ago it would hardly have been expected that any happenings in a house such as is here pictured would call attention to it from every part of civilized Europe, and particularly would this have been true had it been added that the hut was in a far-off island of the South Pacific. And yet to-day events are transacting around this one house, which is that of the German consul at Apia, Samoa, which threatens the peace of three of the great powers, United States, England and Germany.

Most of our readers will remember that some years ago there was international trouble caused by the conduct of the native population in the Samoan islands. There was a civil war over the possession of the throne between two rivals. The same three powers were interested then as now, but the subject is particularly remembered from the fact that a number of vessels from the three navies were there and were overtaken in the harbor by a fearful storm which wrecked several of the warships, among them two American vessels. It was an appalling disaster and was only brightened by the brave heroism of the sailors generally. Then as now Britain and America were united and Germany on the other side; but after a long diplomatic discussion one of the rival claimants of the throne was recognized and a new government established under a tripartite arrangement of the Powers by which their respective consuls acted as a sort of executive council, while an American was made Chief Justice.

The arrangement has worked fairly well, although scarcely satisfactorily, until recently when further trouble came from the uprising of a band of rebels, who desired to place another claimant on the throne, Mataafa. Under the agreement the matter was left to the Chief Justice, who reported against him. It is said that Mataafa was supported by the German consul and Apia was taken by the insurgents. At this time there were no American ships there and the single British man-of-war was actively engaged in protecting British and Americans alike. The cruiser *Philadelphia* commanded by Admiral Kautz of our navy soon arrived and a conference was held upon her by the consuls. Orders were given for the dispersion of Mataafa's army; but he, evidently relying on German aid continued in rebellion.

These troubles soon took a new turn, which resulted in a bombardment of several towns by the *Philadelphia* and the British ships *Porpoise* and *Royalist*, which lasted intermittently for eight days. A number of the allied sailors were killed or injured; but no estimate of the native loss has been made.

As Mataafa and his chiefs forming a provisional government continued to defy the treaty after the *Philadelphia's* arrival, Admiral Kautz, the consuls and interested parties resolved to dismiss them; but they were upheld and incited in rebellion by Herr Rose, the German consul, and finally opened fire on our ships as above stated. The Americans and British since then have been fighting together splendidly.

As soon as this news reached New Zealand it was telegraphed all over the world from Auckland. It created wild excitement and another war seemed probable; but the unbending attitude of England and America brought serious second thought and after the usual diplomatic exchanges, it has practically been decided to retain the present agreement until a commission of one high officer from each government, shall visit the islands and examine into the condition of the surroundings and lay out a plan for the future. It is to be regretted that the support of the German consul, Herr Rose, has encouraged the insurrection. Soon after the crowning of the new king, Tanu, under the English and American support, a large force of American and British sailors were ambushed while on an exploring expedition. They fought an overwhelming force of natives but escaped with the loss of a few officers and men. President McKinley here as in the Philippines seems anxious to have a strong native government in whatever shape may be most satisfactory for the island inhabitants.

It may be interesting for COMFORT's readers to know that the Samoan islands are not valuable on account of commerce but of their importance as the sites of future coaling and naval stations. It is a group having an aggre-

rest of the population is Polynesian. We have devoted considerable space to a matter now practically closed up; but it is one of the trivial incidents that often bring on great wars, although of themselves insignificant; and because as Americans we must now accustom ourselves to read and study about distant countries which must be more or less directly controlled by our own country now one of the great powers of the world.

At the present time there is little to say of Cuba. The administration as we narrated last month sent \$3,000,000 to pay off the Cuban soldiers. The Cuban assembly, a sort of self-constituted provisional government denounced Gomez as a traitor and removed him from command of the Cuban army because he had used his good office to bring about this settlement. Unfortunately for them they had to deal with the inflexible power of Gen. Brooke who refused to distribute the money excepting on his own terms. As to the assembly it debated and resolved daily until it adjourned; but no one seems to have taken it very seriously nor does the average newspaper reader know what it all means. On the whole it may be said Cuban affairs are satisfactory. As to Porto Rico our commission has returned full of praises for the rapid progress being made under American rule. Notwithstanding some slight jealousies there seems to be no doubt that Porto Rico is fast becoming Americanized and in a satisfactory way.

Though hardly to be classed as one of our possessions as our title would indicate, the affairs of China are now of intense interest to our readers on account of our prominent position in the East. The demands of Italy for a harbor and coaling station at San Mun, which caused such a commotion in Europe a month ago, now seems to be in a fair way to be acceded



REAR ADMIRAL KAUTZ.

to. It is understood that Italy asks a ninety-nine year lease of San Mun Bay, together with certain islands and railroad and mining concessions covering the larger part of the province of Che-Kiang; although the Chinese foreign office refused at first, the attitude of Great Britain renders it probable that the demands will be granted. It seems as if this will greatly hasten the partition of China.

The newspapers for the past month have been full of the valorous deeds of our soldiers in the East. So long as the treaty was not ratified the natives were in rebellion against Spain and the Americans were confined to Manila proper. With the ratification of peace the Filipinos become rebels against the authority of the United States. Under this status of offensive operations were commenced and there has been a continuous campaign for a month. The losses to the Filipinos have been tremendous and their capital, Malolos, fell. Everywhere the rebels have been defeated but they have great advantages and in guerilla fighting, to which this war will finally descend, they will be able to make quite a long fight. Meantime, it seems probable that President McKinley will have to call for more volunteers as large numbers of troops have to be withdrawn for garrisons in captured islands and cities. Gen. Lloyd Wheaton has made an enviable record in the campaign and shown himself a leading general.

The proclamation of the Philippine Commission (which was sent by President McKinley to ascertain the exact condition of the islands and the people, and has been at Manila for the past month observing the situation and studying the conditions of the situation), has been distributed. The high character of the gentlemen comprising this Commission is ample guarantee that whatever report is made will be the result of careful study and the most judicial decision. The men who form the Commission are expert students, and men who have in public and private life been constantly connected with the affairs of America in China and the East. On the fourth of April, after the fall of the Filipino rebel capital, Malolos, the proclamation of the Philippine Commission was issued in English, Spanish and Tagalmano.

The preamble recites the cession by treaty of the Philippine Islands to the United States, and refers to the appointment of the Commission, assuring the people of the cordial good will and fraternal feeling of President McKinley and the American people; and asserts that the object which the United States government apart from the fulfillment of its solemn obligations has assumed toward the family of nations by the assumption of this sovereignty over the islands, is the well being, prosperity and happiness of the Filipino people and their elevation and advancement to a position among the civilized nations of the world, which the President believes will be best brought about by the cultivation of letters, science and the liberal and practical arts; by the enlargement of intercourse with foreign nations, the expansion of industrial pursuits by trade and commerce; by the multiplication and improvement of the means of internal communications; and by the development of the resources of this great archipelago. But unfortunately the pure motives of the American government towards the people have been misinterpreted to some of the inhabitants of certain islands; and in consequence the friendly forces have been openly attacked. The proclamation, after arguing the needs of the

## HAVE YOU WEAK LUNGS?

Every Sufferer from Lung Weakness, Consumption, Asthma, Catarrh or Bronchitis Can Be Cured.



Nearly everybody you meet will regard it as a kind of insult to be asked if they have weak lungs. All seem to have a solid faith in the soundness of their own breathing machine. In cases of trouble they will admit there is a "heavy cold," "a touch of bronchitis," or even "a spell of asthma," but as to weak or unsound lungs, never, NEVER. Even the poor consumptive, who scarcely speaks without coughing, whose cheeks are wasted, hollow and bear the hectic flush of doom, will assure you with glistening eyes that his cold is on the mend and he will be all right when the weather changes.

It is simply terrible to think how far we may be guilty by our indifference to the lung troubles of those near and dear to us. It is also a sad thought that we may hug a delusion as to our own health that we only get rid of when life itself must pay the forfeit.

Nobody can afford to think lightly of lung troubles. Nobody can afford to be mistaken about their possible dangers. Nobody can afford to neglect them, or "let them wear out," or "get better in the spring," or any other tomfoolery that leads only to wreck and ruin. Lung troubles don't move backward. Weak lungs don't grow strong by themselves—you must heal them and strengthen them, and rid them of the very earliest germs of disease, or you are simply committing a form of suicide.

Filipinos and that they can best be conserved by submission to the American government, guarantees to spread peace and happiness among the people, with rightful freedom to accustom them to free self government, encourage domestic aspirations, sentiments and ideas, which are the promise of patriotism and fruitful national development. In conclusion it is stated that the Commission will visit the Philippine provinces to ascertain the enlightened native opinion as to the forms of government adapted to the people, and conformable with their traditions and ideals, asking leading representative men to meet the Commission and to consult the wishes and secure the advice and co-operation of the people.

The proclamation proper contains eleven articles declaring America's intentions, which commences with the fact that the supremacy of the United States must and will be enforced throughout every part of the archipelago. Liberty and self-government is promised; the civil rights of the Filipinos are guaranteed and protected, as well as religious freedom; honest and effective civil service promises the collection and application of the revenues on a sound and economical basis with honest fiscal administration; reduction of taxation; future speedy and effective administration of justice without delay or corruption; concentration of the roads, railroads, and other means of communication and transportation; development of foreign trade, commerce, and industrial pursuits; effective provision for elementary schools; and reforms in every department of the government and the people themselves.

Speaking of the proclamation, Dr. Schurman, President of the Commission, says: "The Filipinos have been asking unceasingly, 'What do you propose to do for us?'" The proclamation answers the question and should satisfy them. Col. Charles Denby, former Minister to China, and a member of the present Commission said: "It is the most important proclamation since the Declaration of Independence." This proclamation has been distributed in all

parts of the islands accessible to American troops, and has been received with great favor by the native Filipinos.

As might have been expected of the gallant ship which has proven such a record breaker, the *Oregon* swept into Manila at full speed on the evening of March 18th just as the sun went down. Notwithstanding her long voyage around the Horn and her quick flight from Hawaii, Admiral Dewey was able to cable that she arrived fit for immediate duty. It is to be regretted that the appropriation necessary for the immediate laying of a submarine telegraph from San Francisco to Honolulu was omitted from the bill when reported back to Congress from the conference committee. This cable and the Nicaraguan canal are of the greatest necessity to this country; but through opposition of certain members of both branches, Congress failed to make the necessary appropriation of money for these two great projects. They are certain to come later, but are necessary now, and the people of this country desire their early completion.

## WRITE TO THE DOCTOR.

Write at once to Dr. T. A. Slocum, 96 and 98 Pine street, New York City, giving name, express and postoffice address, and mention reading this article in COMFORT. Delay only makes your trouble worse.



GEN. LLOYD WHEATON.

gate territory of some 1700 square miles, and a population of about 36,000 people, of whom about 200 are British subjects, 125 Germans, 25 French and about the same number of Americans, with a sprinkling of other nations; the

## Reversible LINENE Collars and Cuffs.

Stylish, convenient, economical. Made of fine cloth, finished in pure starch, and exactly resemble fashionable linen goods. No Laundry Work. When soiled discard. Ten Collars or five pairs of Cuffs, 25cts. By mail, 30cts. Send 6 cts. in stamps for sample collar or pair of cuffs. Name size and style.

REVERSIBLE COLLAR CO., Dept. K, Boston, Mass.  
AGENTS: DANTE TASSO, MURIEL ANGELO RAPHAEL



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE subject of sofa cushions and covers for same, is always an interesting one, for we all know how prone they are to soiling, fading, wear-out and otherwise making themselves anything but a thing of beauty,—and that a sofa pillow that is soiled or has seen its best days is an eyesore to every dainty woman. And yet, when you need from one to two dozen of these charming accessories, how hard it is to keep them always in perfect condition.

White China silk is perhaps the best, coolest, and in every way the most desirable of materials for cushion covers,—owing to its perfect cleansing qualities and its durability, but one doesn't want all the covers made of it.

A very handsome pillow cover was recently made from a light shade of blue art linen and decorated with drawn work. A border three inches in depth was drawn all around the pillow, at a distance of three inches from the outer edge. The threads were not drawn entirely across each side, but to within three inches of the edge, thus bringing all the drawn work within an exact square. At the corners of this square, which of course would be left entirely open, quite a solid form is to be worked. This may be a spider-web stitch, or any similar form which fills in a square well. The drawn threads on each side may be worked with as simple or with as elaborate a stitch as the worker chooses to employ. The work is to be done with a dark shade of blue silk which forms a pretty contrast to the light blue of the art linen. The pillow is to be made up over any chosen contrasting color, and finished with a ruffle of the art linen, or with a large cord. The cords are newer than the ruffles, and are very much liked. They are as large as the finger, and come in white and colors. The one chosen for this pillow may be of either the light or dark blue. The finished pillow is very handsome.

A second pillow, while simpler to work and requiring less knowledge of elaborate stitches, is very effective and dainty. It is made from the checked linen which is used as a foundation for so many pretty pillow covers. But while the foundation material is not new the method of working is different from any heretofore seen, and the effect is much like that of drawn work when seen at a short distance. The pillow described was of red and white checks, but of course any preferred color may be used instead of the red, as the linen comes in blue, yellow and green, each in combination with white. The piece of linen chosen was in even checks, each about one-half an inch square, and all the work was done upon the solid red blocks. The Battenburg thread is used for working as this is of sufficient size to show effectively, and produces the lacelike effect which gives the pillow its charm. Work the first solid red square with a Greek cross in the Battenburg thread. Start from the middle of the check and carry the thread to the outer edge of one side and to within one-fourth of the length of the side from the right-hand corner. Go back to the center and make the corresponding line from there to within the same distance from the left-hand corner. Next carry the thread across the edge between the



ends of these two stitches. This forms one of the four sides of the cross. Repeat the form, making it each time from the center to one of the sides of the block or check, and the result will give the Greek cross, outlined in white on the red. In the next red check make a spider web stitch. To do this cross the check from corner to corner, and from side to side, making eight lines radiating from the center. Bring the needle through from beneath in the middle, and pass the thread around the center weaving it under and over the radiating threads. As there are an even number of threads it will be necessary to pass the needle under or over two each time the circle is completed, in order that each succeeding circle may alternate with the last. Continue this weaving until the check is about half covered with the web, then draw the thread through to the wrong side and fasten. Alternate the Greek cross and the spider web on the red checks, both up and down and across, until the cover is completed. The pillow is to be made up with a ruffle of the checked linen, or with a double ruffle of plain red under plain white. The latter better carries out the plan of the pillow cover, as when completed it looks like drawn work over a red foundation. This ruffle may be continuous, or it may be made in four parts, leaving the corners open. The latter is the newer style. The hem of the ruffles may be feather-stitched, using red on the white ruffle. Even a nicer finish is given by hemstitching the white ruffle, thus showing the red beneath to better advantage, and making the whole pillow especially dainty.

Cord edges are very popular for many styles of pillows, and are taking the place of ruffles to a great extent. A novel finish was recently given a dainty pillow with especially good effect. A puff of the goods was set in all around when the back and front were put together. This puff was just large enough to draw the large finishing cord through, and formed a full casing for it. By this means the edge had a solid roll effect, closely shirred. A piece of white cotton rope could be used in

place of the finishing cord quite as well if it is to be drawn through a puff as just described.

Jewel embroidery on dotted muslin is one of the simplest forms of embroidery, and in its very simplicity lies much of its charm. It can be done by anyone familiar with the use of the needle, requires no stamped pattern, and is very inexpensive. The work is done by working with Asiatic filo silk over the dots of the muslin, completely covering each dot with closely set parallel rows of stitches. Muslin with any sized dots can be used, and whatever the size of the dot the stitches are taken from side to side, in what is known as satin stitch. The coin sized dots are more effective than the very small ones, but this is largely a matter of taste, and is determined also by the character of the article for which the embroidery is used.

A very dainty pillow cover could be made in this way. There should be an undercover of white, and then the outer should be cut to fit of the dotted muslin. Dots the size of a ten cent piece look well for a rather small square pillow, and the "quarter" dots for a full sized pillow. The upper cover of the pillow should have its dots covered with the silk, using one shade for all. The under side of the cover needs no embroidery. The pillow should be finished with a ruffle, also of the dotted muslin, but the dots of the ruffle are not to be worked. Instead turn the hem, and baste down. Then cover its edge with one row of baby ribbon of the shade of the silk used in covering the dots. Such a pillow is very dainty for the parlor, or for a young girl's room. The color of silk employed should be governed by the furnishings of the room in which it is to be placed. A very light shade of this same color may be used for the under case instead of white if preferred.

The long narrow pine cushion now so much used may be made up of the dotted muslin with good effect. The covers for these cushions are five inches wide and from fourteen to eighteen inches long, eighteen being the extreme. These are made with an under cover of white or color, and with a ruffle around the four sides. The dots for this should be smaller than for the pillows; those the size of the end of a lead pencil being large enough. For the cushion you may use a single color for all the dots, or you may follow the jewel effect more closely, and embroider the dots in a variety of colors, alternating the colors so that they shall be well balanced, but not perfectly regular. If you have a few threads of different colors left from other embroidery, this is an admirable way to use them. If you buy new silks for the purpose and want to have the real jeweled effect, choose those colors which correspond with the gems as largely as possible. If an under color has been used, make a ruffle of the same to lie under the muslin ruffle, but if the foundation is of white, then a pretty finish for the cushion is made by adding a full cluster of loops of baby ribbon at one corner. Have almost as many colors of ribbon in this cluster as there are colors in your jewels, and be sure to match them nicely. Such a cushion is very bright and attractive, and yet has a dainty air which adds to the furnishing of the dresser.

The embroidered muslin may also be made up into glove and handkerchief cases, finishing the edges with a ruffle, or with a silk cord which corresponds with the embroidery in color. Pillows for the baby's carriage may be embroidered in pale blue or pink, and an exquisite crib or carriage blanket may be made up with the muslin as an outer cover, over a delicate color or over white.

Other uses for this embroidery will be thought of by anyone accustomed to fancy work, and seldom can as good results be obtained with as little labor, while if the Asiatic filo is used the work can be washed any number of times without fading.

Odd in name, very dainty in design are the corset covers which make a part of the trousseau of the modern bride. They are called "Marguerites". All sorts of delicate fabrics are employed for them, Indian linen, nainsook, fine checked dimity, and wash silks plain or checked, are among the materials chosen. The form of the garment is very simple, and one may easily be cut without a pattern. There are but two pieces and



the general design may be seen in the small diagram shown in the illustration. The Marguerite is cut wide so that it can be slipped on over the head without an opening in the front, and all that is actually made to fit is the armhole. An open insertion, called a beading, is sewed around the neck and armholes, and a dainty lace edge is sewed to the beading. A narrow ribbon is run through the beading and tied in a bow at the front of each armhole. That at the neck serves to draw the garment up after it is put on, and gives a pretty fullness about the shoulders. Some of the Marguerites come just to the waist line and are finished there with the beading and a ribbon to draw it into place, while others are made longer and have a casing at the waist line.

These are the main features of the garment, but there are endless ways of finishing and trimming them. The "Susans" are like the Marguerites in form, but are trimmed in a distinct style. The four diagonal corners of a fancy handkerchief, lace-trimmed or embroidered, are sewed to the neck of the garment so that they shall fall below the beading and lace. Two of the corners are sewed on over the shoulders and the other two across the front. Only those thus trimmed are termed "Susans."

Diagram  
for  
Marguerite

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Some of the Marguerites are finished with one or two rows of insertion set in below the beading of the neck; others are trimmed with bows of insertion up and down the front. The trimming is always of lace, as anything else would prove too heavy for the delicate fabrics employed.

Sometimes the form of the garment is varied slightly. A French back is used with a seam down the middle. This makes the back fit closer, and takes away from the fullness across the shoulders. Still another variation is made in the front of some, for instead of cutting this in one piece like the back, it is cut in two pieces which correspond at the side to the sides of the back piece, but which extend toward the front in two long tapering points. These ends are intended to be tied together in a full, soft bow. The edges are finished with lace, and the bow not only makes a very pretty finish, but gives the necessary fullness which in the other style is imparted by drawing up the width with a ribbon.

Many young girls who enjoy doing fine handwork, keep a Marguerite on their work table ready to take up while visiting with a friend; and that a Marguerite or a Susan makes one of the most acceptable of gifts may be readily proved by consulting any woman who likes dainty lingerie.

Very elaborate indeed are the new decorations of embroidery and lace combined, which are shown in the newest table linens. These pieces are used for tables upon which bric-a-brac is placed, even more than for the dining table. For the latter they are appropriate only upon the most formal occasions. They look particularly handsome upon the polished wood of a mahogany dining table, without the usual tablecloth as an underlay.

The centerpieces are of fine linen of heavy quality, with the outer edge stamped in a Battenburg lace pattern of considerable depth. The width of the pattern depends upon the size of centerpiece, but it is always deep enough to be rich and heavy. An embroidery pattern is also stamped upon the linen, usually in sprays of flowers in their natural size, and with no attempt at conventionalism. The effect is almost as though the blossom with its long stem and a few leaves had been laid upon the linen and lace with unstudied effect. The design is so placed that while the main part of it falls upon the linen, a part of the spray, perhaps a single great rose, falls on the lace. In second spray, worked on another side of the same piece, a cluster of leaves will fall over apparently, upon the heavy lace edge.

All sorts of flowers are used for embroidering these centerpieces. Among those best liked are roses, sweet peas, narcissi, and orchids. The only restriction as to choice of flowers is that those must be chosen which can be worked in their natural size, and after the choice is made the design must be a natural sketch, in order that the effect may be as described, that of a branch or cluster dropped upon the white background of linen and lace.

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Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to COMFORT, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

#### \$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st. For the best original letter	\$3.00
2nd. " " second best original letter	2.50
3rd. " " third " " " "	2.00
4th. " " fourth " " " "	1.50
5th. " " fifth " " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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George H. Jordan,	\$3.00
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#### DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Spring is now fairly upon us, and the inspiration of its presence makes itself felt. New life awakes within us, new desires, new hopes, new resolves. With the coming of the bees and the birds, with the opening of the flowers and the spreading green of the trees the longing grows strong within us to be also up and doing, to break away from the treadmill of work and roam out into the world in search of the new and the beautiful. Nay, more, to make of ourselves something larger and better than we have yet become: Were it not for these moments of inspiration, which come to us, it may be, through the slightest of causes, what mere lifeless clods we should become, plodding on drearily in one interminable round, with no aspirations for anything better or nobler, until death should put an end to it all.

With these thoughts in our minds let us read, in our first letter for the month, of the noble work being accomplished in Tuskegee, Ala., to benefit the colored race, and of the earnest efforts of the colored people themselves to profit by what is offered them, and so to broaden and deepen their lives in every possible way.

"In the heart of the 'Black Belt,' at Tuskegee, Alabama, is an institution for the education and development of the colored race which has accomplished so much that it has attracted the attention of educators all over the United States. These believe that the course of instruction taught at Tuskegee will in time solve the problem which has puzzled educators and philanthropists both North and South for the past thirty years.

Mr. Booker Washington, the founder of this school and its mainspring, was born a slave. By



MR. BOOKER WASHINGTON.

his own persistent and unrelenting efforts he secured an education at the Hampton Institute in Virginia. Coming to Tuskegee in the year 1881, he rented an old frame church and started a school for the colored people with only thirty pupils, working out by it some original ideas and plans.

"Receiving contributions and assistance as he made his needs known, he bought a tract of land and commenced the erection of suitable buildings. To-day the school owns twenty-three hundred acres of land, of which eight hundred are under cultivation. All the improved methods of farming are taught here, and an experiment station in connection with the farm has been of great benefit. There are now forty-five buildings on the land, of which the larger ones are of brick. A chapel, seating twenty-two hundred people, has just been completed and dedicated, and no prettier or more convenient church can be found in the South.

"These buildings were all designed and constructed by the colored students under the direction and instruction of colored teachers. All the material that enters into their construction except glass and a little hardware, was manufactured in the shops and factories belonging to the school; for twenty-six trades and occupations are represented here, and industrial training, combined with mental work is the keynote of the institution. There are now more than one thousand pupils at work here, three fifths of whom are males; and all are required to learn some trade or occupation in addition to their mental training. Those who have no money to pay for board and tuition give their work at some of the many industries practiced on the grounds, and with the aid of night schools the improvement of their minds is not neglected.

"There are eighty-eight teachers here, many of whom are graduates of Northern universities. Mr. Washington, the Principal, although very quiet and unassuming, is to-day the foremost man of his race. As an orator he has few equals, and high honors have been heaped upon him by northern colleges. Not long ago Harvard University honored him with the degree of L. L. D. Three years ago, selected to deliver the address at the opening of the Atlanta Exposition, he was introduced by President Cleveland, and during the visit

of President McKinley to the Tuskegee college last winter, Mr. Washington rode in the same carriage with the President of the United States and the Governor of Alabama.

"In one of his speeches Mr. Washington spoke thus:

"I am no politician; on the other hand I have always advised my race to give attention to acquiring property, intelligence and character, as the necessary basis of good citizenship, rather than to mere political agitation." And again, "the more I study the question the more I am convinced that it is not so much a question as to what the white man will do with the negro as what the negro will do with the white man's civilization."

GEORGE H. JORDAN, Citronelle, Ala.

Another cousin has sent me a letter on the part which Mrs. Washington plays in her husband's work, and the two letters so fit together, that I make no apologies for giving you so much reading on a single subject in the same month.

"To be the wife of the best known man of a race of ten million persons is no small responsibility, and yet that is probably the position which Mrs. Booker Washington holds to-day with regard to the negroes in this country. In all of Mr. Washington's work throughout the country, both in public speaking and at Tuskegee Institute, the great school for a thousand colored men and women in the middle of the 'Black Belt' of Alabama, Mrs. Washington, who is a native of Mississippi and educated at Fiske University, is her husband's most efficient helper.

In addition to her other duties Mrs. Washington has done a great deal of the best kind of missionary work among the poor and untaught negro farmers' wives on the plantations. Such missionary work as this generally begins with a new broom and a lesson in sweeping, or in some such practical way. Schools and church services follow later. I have been to one plantation where there was no school for the children nearer than eight miles until Mrs. Washington began work there. The planter gave her an abandoned cabin for a schoolhouse, and Mrs. Washington paid one of the Tuskegee students to go there and teach. The teacher had to live in the schoolhouse, and the people soon became so grateful for what she was doing for their children that they began to send her things to eat. Of money they had too little to pay. One scholar would bring three 'sweet taters,' another some eggs, or ears of green corn, half a chicken or a piece of 'possum meat.' In time there was so much of this that a wooden box was placed behind the schoolhouse door to receive the gifts, and this box the scholars have named 'Mrs. Washington's' in grateful honor to the founder of the school.

MORTON FIELDING, Tuskegee, Ala.

Another Kansas cousin has sent us a description of an old battle between Sioux and Comanches. He says:

"Thirteen miles up the Neosho river from the town of Burlington, on the south side of the river, is a large hill rising directly from the river's bank. This is known as Indian Hill. "Some years ago the Comanche and Sioux Indians were here engaged in a fierce battle. It was in July, and the river had been for some time far above high water mark, and the Sioux, not being able to ford it, were at last obliged to fortify themselves upon Indian Hill. They threw up the earth in a ring several feet high, and within this ring they took shelter. The Comanches attacked them, but were driven off, leaving a number of their warriors dead upon the ground. "The Comanches, finding they could not force the Sioux from their fortifications without considerable loss of life among themselves, determined to starve them out; so for several days and nights they kept close guard over their enemy, depending on their squaws to keep them in food. At last the Sioux, finding they must either fight or starve, determined to come out of their entrenchments and make a bold stand. A desperate conflict took place, and the Sioux were repulsed and fled in all directions. Some rode their ponies into the river, hoping to escape in that way; a few did so, but more were caught in the swift current and whirled down the river to their death. This was the battle of Indian Hill. "To this day the old ring-shaped ridge thrown up by the Sioux is plainly visible on the side of the hill, arrow heads are frequently picked up in the vicinity, and skulls are occasionally plowed up by the farmers."

GEORGE JOHNSON, Burlington, Kansas.

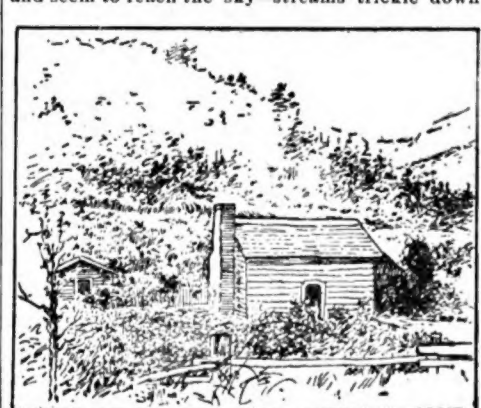
Here is a charming letter from a Georgia cousin giving us delightful glimpses of her home there.

"The most beautiful drive about the town of Rome, Georgia, is the Bluff Road. After crossing the Etowah river near where its muddy water meets the clear Oostanaula, and the two, though unmixed for a long distance, run together, forming the Coosa, the road passes, as on the outskirts of all southern towns, through a negro settlement. Half-clad pickaninnies, dogs and pigs scramble out of the road as we pass. Flowers are in the yards, clothes are constantly drying on the fences, and in the watermelon season, families are sure to be gathered on the doorsteps or perched on fences or wagons, feasting rapturously. Beyond are the fields, and in the distance, the mountains, spurs of the Blue Ridge, deep, blue, and infinitely suggestive.

"Later one reaches the pine woods with here and there a small farm. A bend in the road and it begins to ascend. Another bend, and Black's Bluff is reached. Unconsciously one slows the horse and draws a deep breath of satisfaction.

"Above are great boulders piled upon each other in a way of nature's own—trees surmount the whole and seem to reach the sky—streams trickle down

and whisper of what may be seen in the wonderful heights. The winds and the wild creatures have had their own way about the plants to grow here, and that way has been a success. Everywhere, bending over the road, clambering up the heights, plants abound, vines cling to the trees and ferns fill clinks in the boulders. On the other side of the road, down a steep cliff, flows the rich colored Coosa.



A NEGRO CABIN.

and whisper of what may be seen in the wonderful heights. The winds and the wild creatures have had their own way about the plants to grow here, and that way has been a success. Everywhere, bending over the road, clambering up the heights, plants abound, vines cling to the trees and ferns fill clinks in the boulders. On the other side of the road, down a steep cliff, flows the rich colored Coosa.

"There is a legend connected with this Bluff. Winona, Winadower, the only daughter of an Indian chief living at its foot, was loved of many, but two suitors, Gray Eagle and Black Panther, were the most urgent. Gray Eagle hoped that she loved him and Black Panther knew it.

"One day in early spring Winona set out to clamber over the Bluff in search of wild flowers. Gray Eagle joined her and there, among the great things of earth, she confessed her love for him. Black Panther, hidden behind a tree, heard her, and with deadly rage in his heart, he swore that though he could not have her, Gray Eagle should not. He drew his bow, but Winona saw her lover's danger and sprang in front of him. She fell. Black Panther looked, then flung himself from the heights upon the road below, where the crows found him. Gray Eagle gathered his loved one's body in his arms and carried it to a cave in the rocks. On a bed of flowers he laid it and covered the opening with stones and moss. He left the country to fight among foreign tribes and when wounded unto death he told this story. He did not tell where his Winadower was buried and to this day only the silent sky, the whispering trees, the grey rocks and the deep-flowing Coosa know."

FLORENCE STEVENS, Rome, Ga.

The very breath of summer comes to us in this letter from the "Lone Star" State.

"If Aunt Minerva will permit, I will tell her readers about a trip to the Artesian Well, the Mecca of most of our pilgrimages. After a drive of eighteen miles, under the burning sun, over the heated sand, we came to the cool, green wood in which the well is located. As we drove into the welcome shade we heard the pleasant sound of falling water. Several hundred feet below the surface this water starts up through an iron pipe six or seven inches in diameter. The pipe rises about four feet above the ground and the water leaps out, and falls around it, looking exactly like a large glass case. If one drops a silver coin into the well, it will be thrown back, but the more precious gold the water keeps for itself. A wedding ring, dropped from a fair finger, is lying hidden in its dark depths.

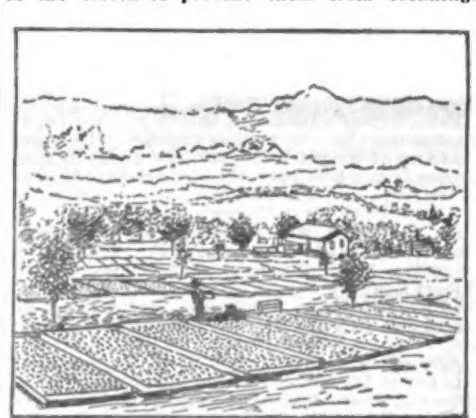
"From the basin around the pipe a 'bright clear flow of crystal wandering water' slips away to the lake. In the shadow of the giant trees lies the beautiful lake fringed with rushes, flags and cat tails, and almost covered with the broad pads and creamy blossoms of the water lilies.

"Soon after our arrival camp fires began to twinkle, and the aroma of supper rose upon the air. Never was a meal more thoroughly enjoyed than that one, though we sat on the sand, ate from tin plates, and drank black coffee from tin cups.

"We Texans are a sociable people and in a short time our party had become acquainted with a crowd of young folks from a neighboring town. We gathered at the well, and passed the time away with music and dancing. Under the flaring torches we danced on the level ground, while a mellow voice sang to the ringing banjo and the musical splash of water. In the black woods the owls chanted a weird chorus, the frogs in the lake gave them answer, and occasionally the dismal howl of a wolf came from the dim distance. When many a dance over a polished floor, under glittering lights, to the sound of exquisite music, has been forgotten, that one will live in my memory."

SHELL F. ACREE, Whitesboro, Texas.

"In Napa Valley the prune trees blossom in March, and for a few days thereafter there is great anxiety lest an untimely frost should destroy the crop. The blossoms are often so thickly set as to hide the tree, and the fruit, as it matures, so weighs down the branches that they must be tied or bolted at the crotch to prevent them from breaking.



TRAYS OF PRUNES DRYING.

Other dangers which threaten the growing crop are the strong north wind which sometimes wrecks the orchard, and a drought which will cause the fruit to wither and drop. The picking of French prunes begins late in August or early in September. Large sheets are spread under the tree and the ripper fruit shaken down on them. The average yield per tree is one hundred and twenty-five pounds.

"The curing process at the 'drier' commences with pouring the prunes into a large wire 'dipper' holding a hundred and fifty pounds, which is worked by levers and submerged in boiling lye water. This thins and perforates the skins and so hastens the drying process. The lye dipper empties into the rinsing dipper and that into the hopper which shakes the fruit down into the trays on the spreader which has a rapid sidewise motion to roll the fruit in place. The trays are then carried to the drying field and laid down in rows to dry in the hot sun. The common tray is three by four feet in size, made of eight redwood shakes, four redwood side pieces and one fir lath at each end. Ten men sometimes run through fifty tons of firm or large fruit in ten hours. After lying in the sun five or ten days the fruit is sorted by hand as to quality and dryness. The good fruit is then taken to the grading machine where it is cleaned of all dirt and the different sizes separated and put in large bins or heaps. The number of prunes to the pound constitutes the grades which run from 150-160's (the smallest salable) to 30-40's (pronounced thirty forties). There were practically no 30-40's nor 40-50's of California prunes in 1898, the most common grades being 80-90's to 100-110's. "After 'sweating' the fruit is taken from the bin to be sacked or boxed according to the order of the wholesaler. If sacked it may be steamed or unsteamed as per order and of any size or quality. Steaming adds a few pounds weight to each sack; it softens, cleans and brightens the fruit, also destroys all insect life or possible mould. Only large sizes are boxed, and are generally steamed. The best of the boxed fruit is 'faced' on the top and the boxes nicely lined with fine paper. To 'face' is to select the largest of the grade being boxed and flatten the fruit and lay in rows. Girls do this work, also all kinds of sorting. Boxes are of various weights from ten to fifty pounds. Sacks are all one size, averaging one hundred pounds. The prunes are now ready for the market."

EFFIE C. BRYANT, Calistoga, Cal.

A western cousin sends us the following interesting bit of American history and story. He says: "The country which was at one time designated as the 'Great American Desert' had been opened up for settlement under the Homestead Law, and as the Americans were always the move it was not long in filling up with settlers. This was a beautiful country. The scenery was grand beyond description, with the most gorgeous sunsets, and mirages which, though false and deceptive, were magnificent. The climate was fairly good, the air pure, and the water, though so deep in the earth that it must be brought to the surface by wind pumps, was clear as crystal and cold as that which flows from the snow capped mountains.

"The first season after this region was settled the prairies were covered with droves of wild horses and herds of antelopes. Many of these horses were

lassoed, tamed, and used by the settlers, while the antelopes furnished delicious steaks for their tables.

"On account of the scarcity of timber the people made themselves dugouts for dwellings. These were made by digging down several feet into the ground and laying up sods, leaving places for doors and windows. The roofs were of lumber, on which were thrown dirt mixed with gypsum to weigh them down, and prevent them from being blown off by the winds. This dirt became in time so hard-packed as to be perfectly rain-proof. The settlers then plastered these dugouts inside with gypsum mixed with sand, and their home was completed. The shelter for their stock was made in much the same way, and a strong wire was stretched from the dwelling to the stables for their guidance in case of blizzards which were very severe and came up without warning. While the blizzard lasted it was unsafe to venture far from the house, as in the darkness and blinding sleet one might easily perish within a few feet of his home.

"The summers were long and hot, and no shade could be devised. Trees were planted, but failed to grow. Crops also failed. People plowed and planted, and the crops would come up and flourish through May and June, but were invariably blasted before the end of the summer by the hot winds of July and August.

"Little by little the settlers drifted away in search of more congenial climes, and at last only a few were left, hoping against hope that they might conquer in the end and win for themselves a home in this spot of their adoption. But even they were finally forced to acknowledge that they must find new homes. The last winter of their stay was a hard one, but the young people in the one little hamlet, called Lawton, resolved that they would celebrate their last Christmas together, and make use once more of the little hall which they had built for festive and religious gatherings. They had no money to spare for gifts, and no stores in which to find them had they had the money; so they consulted their copies of COMFORT, and from the 'Busy Bee' corner they evolved many a pretty and useful gift. Space forbids that I should describe the slippers, pincushions, tidies, neckties, and many another dainty creation that they made by the aid of their much-loved paper. And their refreshments, too, they concocted from the hints that they gleaned from 'Kitchen Chats', from the same valuable COMFORT. And now that they are separated, and settled in distant homes, letters still keep up the old friendship, and they frequently recall to each other the memories of the delights of that never-to-be-forgotten Christmas."

O. L. HICKOK, Argonia, Kansas.

And now my space is full, so we must cut short our letter reading for another month.

AUNT MINERVA.

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Send us only 5c, and we send you Six Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. 5 cents for 6. Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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## Queen Victoria's Daily Life.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



QUEEN Victoria, on the twenty-fourth of May, 1899, if she lives until then, will be eighty years old. It is interesting to know something of how the daily life of this royal woman, who will go into history as the most remarkable sovereign of this century, has been spent.

As a child the possible future of the Princess Victoria was always kept before her by her worthy mother, the Duchess of Kent, and her education was framed with a view to preparing her for the high and responsible duties which she might be called upon to perform. Her early training was very strict, and when her old governess died, no longer ago than 1870 the Queen wrote that while she had adored her, she "was greatly in awe of her."

The Duchess, who was a born diplomat as well as one of the wisest of mothers, used to take the little princess about England a good deal, saying that she thought it well the child should see much of the country, and thinking, to herself, it may be surmised, that it was well the country should see much of her.

Our initial shows her as she appeared when she ascended the throne. Of all the beautiful and interesting furnishings and ornaments of Burghley House, the magnificent Elizabethan palace home of the Marquis of Exeter, at Stamford, I think the thing which pleased me most was a little white bed, laid with the finest of linen and hung with the choicest of lace, linen and lace yellow now with age, in which the custodian of the rooms tells visitors with pride "Er Majesty slept the first time she came to visit here, when she was but a slip of a girl."

I imagine the "slip of a girl" must have enjoyed these outings. It seems as if it must have been dull to be so much alone as such an exalted personage must be. Sir Henry Ponsonby has told of the Queen's childhood as follows: "Miss Victoria Conroy came to see her once a week, and occasionally others played with her, but with these exceptions she was left alone with the companionship of her dolls."

Now that sixty and more years have passed it is interesting, too, to read what an eye witness wrote of the daily life of the Queen at Windsor Castle in the short time which elapsed between her coronation and her marriage.

"The Queen gets up soon after eight o'clock, breakfasts in her own room, and is employed the whole morning in transacting business. She reads all the dispatches and has every matter of interest and importance in every department laid before her.

"At two she rides with a large suite, and she likes to have it numerous. She rides for two hours along the road, and the greater part of the time at a full gallop. After riding she amuses herself the rest of the afternoon with music, singing, playing, romping with the children, if there are any at the Castle, (and she is so fond of them that she generally contrives to have some there), or in any other way she fancies.

"The hour for dinner is nominally half-past seven o'clock, soon after which time the guests assemble, but she seldom appears till near eight. The lord-in-waiting comes into the drawing-room and instructs each gentleman which lady he is to take in to dinner.

"When the guests are all assembled the Queen comes in, preceded by the gentlemen of the household, and followed by the Duchess of Kent and all her ladies. She speaks to each lady, bows to the men, and goes immediately into the dining-room. She generally takes the arm of the man of the highest rank. She remains at table the usual time, but does not suffer the men to sit long after, and they are summoned to coffee in about a quarter of an hour. In the drawing-room she never sits down until the men make their appearance. Coffee is served to them in the adjoining room, and then they go into the drawing-room, when she goes around and says a few words to each, of the most trivial nature—all, however, very civil and cordial in manner and expression.

"When this little ceremony is over the Duchess of Kent's whist table is arranged, and then the round table is marshalled. Melbourne invariably sitting on the left hand of the Queen, and remaining there without moving until the evening is at an end. At about half-past eleven she goes to bed, or when the Duchess has played her usual number of rubbers, and the band have performed all the pieces in their list for the night. This is the whole history of her day. She orders and regulates every detail herself; she knows where everybody is lodged in the Castle; settles about the riding and driving, and enters into every particular with minute attention."

Sixty years later another one of the royal household, describing a day in the Queen's life says: "The Queen usually begins her day with a cup of cocoa. Tea and coffee are likewise brought to her bedside by a maid, but her choice seldom varies. A thin German rusk is eaten with the drink. At about 11.30 A. M. Her Majesty partakes of soup, or an egg beaten up in wine.

"The morning is occupied with official matters; papers are brought for signature, and state affairs are generally discussed. The Times is read to the Queen by one of her ladies. In summer time all the business is transacted out of doors.

"Luncheon at two o'clock is always the meal of the day with the Queen. The dishes are many and elaborate. During the afternoon she drives or is occupied in divers ways until tea time, another elaborate meal, as teas go, and then again until dinner, at a quarter to nine o'clock. This meal, like luncheon is exquisitely prepared. The Queen drinks during the meal claret and water or dry champagne."

That all these elaborate menus fall on the appetite though, one may infer from a passage in the Queen's published Journal where, writing of a visit to the Dowager Duchess of Athole, at Dunkeld, not so very many years ago, she says: "Excellent breakfasts; such splendid cream and butter. The Duchess has

a very good cook, a Scotchwoman, and I thought how dear Albert would have liked it all. He always said things tasted better in smaller houses."

A large part of the Queen's home life has been spent out of doors. At all of her residences she has had some lawn or garden nook where she could work in the mornings. At Windsor she had a tent pitched on the lawn of Frogmore House. At Osborne she sits in a summer house. At Balmoral she has appropriated a small cottage, built principally of lath and plaster, and used originally as a gardener's cottage. Screened from the Castle by dense shrubbery, it is quite secluded, and affords a pleasant outlook on smooth lawns and quiet woods. There are only three rooms in the cottage. In one of these the Queen frequently breakfasts. In the largest room, furnished like the rest, quite plainly, Her Majesty works, writing at a large round table. One end of this room can be easily thrown entirely open to give Her Majesty the open air feeling she delights in.

How diligent the Queen has been in the discharge of her official duties Lord Beaconsfield bore witness when he wrote: "There is not a dispatch received from abroad, or sent from this country abroad which is not submitted to the Queen. The whole of the international administration of this country depends greatly upon the sign manual of the Sovereign, and it may be said that her signature has never been placed to any document of which she did not know the purpose and of which she did not approve."

## READING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



Na recent occasion a friend said he never read poetry. That Scott's "Lady of the Lake" was the only poem he could ever understand. Now the reason he felt so is because he never really tried to read another poem. He had a feeling that is common to most of us. Some have a kind of dread on beginning to read any new subject.

I remember I used to have a sort of dread on commencing a new play of Shakespeare, but after reading a scene or two I became interested and could not close the book until the end was reached. Is it not because we feel that we are on the outside, and that if we could only once get into the spirit of the poem all would be easy? Some of us view with consternation the idea of reading from end to end such poems as Homer's Iliad, Dante's Divine Comedy or Shakespeare's Dramas. Now to remove that first dread of undertaking one of the so-called heavy books, is the difficulty. Let us see if we cannot approach them from another standpoint. We usually think we must begin at the beginning and read right through to the end. In point of fact, any one of the great poets can be read any where.

Take Homer's Iliad and Odyssey; they are as interesting in one part as another. They are made up of bright incidents and short stories, stories that a five-year-old boy delights to hear at bedtime, and will tease for.

No one could find Homer's stories dull. Andrew Lang, who is one of the best translators we have of Homer, once said he liked the Odyssey, Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer" and Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island" better than any other romances. Notice that he places the Odyssey first, Tom Sawyer second and Treasure Island third.

Absorbing as the story of Treasure Island is, it is not so fascinating as the old Greek tales. Take the story of Ulysses slaying the Suitors in the palace. The latest murder in the papers cannot begin to hold the interest as that will.

In fact it seems as if the old writers exhausted the world of its good stories. James Russell Lowell, the poet, said something like this; that somehow all the good stories got told in the dawn of human existence. All Shakespeare's plays have been traced to older stories, all except one. The critics have not yet been able to find any story that suggests the plot of the Tempest.

In the case of Homer, however, no one has yet been able to unearth any older version of his stories. They are furthermore told in the plainest and most natural way; there is nothing obscure, there are no hidden meanings. Milton is not like Homer. Paradise Lost is not the easy, natural, graceful epic, that the Iliad and Odyssey are. Milton is too much of a student for a boy or girl.

Old Homer is touching and stirring, because he forms character and is edifying. He is the best for all ages, young and old, and for all moods. He writes of battles, and he delights in the joy of battle, and in all the movements of war, yet he delights not less, but more in peace; in prosperous cities, hearth's secure, in the tender beauty of children, in the love of wedded wives, in the frank nobility of maidens, in the beauty of earth and sky and sea, and seaward murmuring rivers; in sun and snow, frost and mist and rain; in the whispered talk of boy and girl, beneath oak and pine tree.

The stories of Sophocles' plays are simple and easy to follow. The Shirts of Nessus is one of his plays, the title is "The Maiden of Trachis," but is almost always alluded to as the Shirts of Nessus. It is a story perfectly absorbing, has always been and always will be a story to strengthen every one's character. I was much surprised to learn how puritanical (we would say) the early Greek poets were.

Another Greek that all who know is to love, is Plutarch. A millionaire recently said his favorite book was Plutarch's Lives; that he read and re-read it. Isn't that curious? Who would think a busy man, who had made his million, would care to read an ancient like Plutarch? He said it was a lesson to learn how many good and great men have been destroyed by envy; that he always learned something new every time he opened the book.

Let me tell you an incident from Plutarch. Phidias, the world's greatest sculptor, had charge of building the Parthenon. Inside was the wonderful and justly celebrated statue of Minerva. It was actually covered with massive plates of solid gold. Enormous amounts were used. Pericles, the ruler of the city, charged him to weigh and keep account of all the gold he used; that it might be valuable to him. He completed the work. His brother artists were so jealous of the admiration it caused and its tremendous success, that they brought charges



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against him of stealing gold in the decoration of the statue. He was tried. He produced his accounts. They had to acquit him. Then they turned around and accused him of blasphemy, because among the figures he wrought on Minerva's shield he made his own portrait. They succeeded in convicting him; he was punished by death. Envy got in its deadly work. As luck would have it a part of that shield was discovered in modern times, and on that fragment is Phidias' portrait; fate has given us his picture and has denied every other Greek artist the privilege of sending his portrait down to posterity. Such incidents make up Plutarch's Lives.

With a very little effort on your part, you would soon fairly revel in these good old books. What stories there are here for everybody! What a sea on which to sail! What golden freights to carry! No Spanish galleon was ever treasure laden as you may be if you put forth your hand.

To read with an ever advancing progress you must have an aim. The highest aim is the literature of Greece. When you can appreciate and love the Greek poets you have reached the ultimate goal of earthly literature. This is said, not to have you think for a moment that it is for the benefit of bookworms, but it is for the every-day person like you and me, who read what happens to come before us.

Homer, Shakespeare and Dante are the supreme poets. They are the summit of human endeavor. And how then can we consider ourselves a part of humanity's fabric, if we have not made at least one of those men's masterpieces a part of ourselves! Each one of those men cost an entire civilization. Can we afford to leave this world and not know what at least one of them has to say to us? He created his work for you and me, for each and every child of earth. To ask this question is to answer it. For there are few who do not thirst for knowledge.

## HOW CITY PEOPLE DRESS.

Good dressers in city and country wear the American Woolen Mills Co.'s made to measure suits at \$6.00 to \$10.00; pants \$1.75 to \$5.00, made and sent anywhere in the U. S. to be paid for after examination. For large cloth samples of entire line and full information about ordering, cut this notice out and mail to us. Agents wanted in every unoccupied county in the U. S. Address American Woolen Mill Co., Chicago.

## Six Steel Pens Free.

Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta Maine.

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in appearance, the most beautiful watch ever manufactured. Double hunting case, stem wind and stem set, superbly engraved. Standard American ruby jeweled movement absolutely guaranteed for 20 YEARS.  
Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination, you examine it at the express office and if as represented pay express agent our special introductory price \$3.98 and it is yours. Only one watch to each customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want Gent's or Lady's size and order to-day as we will send out samples at this reduced price for 60 days only.  
R. E. CHAMBERS & CO., 257-259 Dearborn St. Chicago.  
Please mention COMFORT when you write.

**CONFECTION, FOOD, MEDICINE.**  
**Two Thousand Packages Shelled Peanuts SENT FREE.**  
**SELL 12 PACKAGES AND GET A WATCH.**  
The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a confection they are peerless, as a food unequalled. German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut flour. It is found to contain three times the nutriment of wheat; and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found with a slight addition of **Pepsin Salt** to be a sure cure for Dyspepsia and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Even persons with Bright's Disease or Diabetes can now be cured. It is only necessary for old or young to eat a few of our **Pepsin Salted Peanuts** after meals to keep in perfect health—but they can also be eaten in any quantity as a confection without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Indigestion. To Form Part of the **Treat or Refreshments** at party gatherings, societies, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the best of form. Everyone, both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our special process of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate.  
**FREE** We will send two thousand packages of these **Pepsin Salted Peanuts** out to responsible parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 ten-cent packages and **FREE** get a watch, a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. No attention paid to first orders without trial & subscription. Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages.  
Address, COMFORT FOOD DEPT Q, Augusta, Maine.

**HAIR SWITCH 65 CENTS.**  
WE SELL HUMAN HAIR SWITCHES to match any hair at from 65c to \$3.25, the equal of switches that retail at \$2.00 to \$5.00.  
**OUR OFFER:** Cut this ad out and send to us, inclose a good sized sample of the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible, inclose our special price quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we will make the switch to match your hair exact, and send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will immediately refund your money.  
**OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS:**  
2-oz. switch, 20-in. long, long stem, 65c; short stem, 90c; 2-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, \$1.25; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, \$1.50; 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, \$2.25; 3 1/2-oz. 26-in. long, short stem, \$3.25. **WAGONS MARKS**  
**OUR WORK** the highest grade on the market. Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago, Ill. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

**Stamped Satin,**  
assorted colors in 9 square inch blocks, for Fancy Work, Quilts, Sofa Cushions, etc. Each stamped with a neat and graceful design to be worked in silk. 10 cents per package, postpaid. 6 complete stories, and a place of popular sheet music free with every package. H. FRANKLIN JONES, Dept. 7, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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Patented improvements, comfort, safety. New full illustrated Book telling all about Rupture sent FREE, securely sealed. G. V. HOUSE MFG. CO., 744 Broadway, New York.  
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For one time we will send our fashion paper 3 mos. and give free SIX HANDSOME DOLIES, in beautiful designs, ready to work. Right size for use on table. J. HERALD CO., Beaver Springs, Pa.

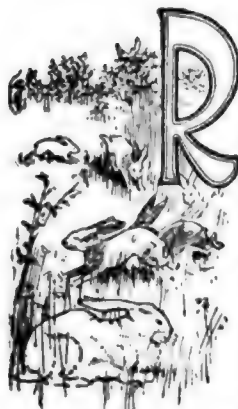
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Put your name and address in our guaranteed Agents' Directory which goes whirling all over America to those who will send you free samples of papers, magazines, pictures, cards, memoranda, etc. You will receive lots of mail. We want 100,000 new names at once, and in order to obtain them quickly we will send you, by return mail, Free of Cost all of the following articles: One large colored map of the U. S. 10 new songs, Color Value Guide, 12 comic pictures, half dozen best agents' articles, worth \$1.50, pictures of all the Presidents, 25 pictures of Aces, etc. We will also send you a 25 cent BUN which will enable you to select 25 cents worth of goods absolutely FREE from our Mammoth Catalogue of 3,387 Sources and Outlets articles. Send your name to-day and enjoy 10 cents to pay postage, packing, etc. **AGENTS' DIRECTORY CO., 218 Dearborn St. Dept. 4 CHICAGO.**

**FREE Clock For You.**  
We have one thousand of these Seth Thomas style Nickel clocks which are guaranteed the best of timers. They will be given away to our subscribers as follows: Send a club of only four yearly subscribers at 25c. each, one dollar in all, and we will forward one of these elegant clocks all charges paid. This is an unheard of chance to get a good reliable timepiece for nothing. Send a club of eight subscribers and we will send two clocks free. Our monthly is the best published at this low price. Address National Farmer, Augusta, Maine.

## FARMING THE RABBIT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



rural districts owning a few. Small farmers raise a few hundreds each year, netting perhaps \$50 or so from the sale of them.

The common cotton-tail rabbits, so familiar in this country, would never do for farming purposes, inasmuch as their meat is very inferior to that of the European varieties. It has too high a flavor to obtain popularity in the markets. However, there is no reason why the best of the foreign kinds should not be introduced into the United States, and their rate of breeding is so enormous that millions might be got from a few pairs in the course of a dozen years. In France the Russian rabbit is most highly prized for its flesh, which by epicures is pronounced delicious. This variety is white, spotted with black, and with nose and ears of a peculiar russet color.

The so-called Russian rabbit is of small size, weighing about 4 pounds when dressed. There are, however, several varieties of rabbits in Russia, where, as well as in Austria, hare skins are commonly tanned and used as furs by the poorer classes. In the same way, some of the Indians in this country used to employ rabbit pelts very largely as furs. This was particularly true of the Plutes and other tribes of the Great Basin, who, having little larger game available, sewed the skins of jack-rabbits together for garments and bedding. The jack-rabbit, by the way, is itself a species of hare.

The profit obtained by rabbit farming in Europe is due chiefly to the fact that the animals can be fed on the waste of farm and garden. If it were necessary to buy all their food, it would cost \$6 or \$7 a month to feed 100 bunnies. In France or Germany, a farmer who begins with 100 of the long-eared stock expects to have, after the first six months, 300 to 350 rabbits to sell every three months. If he did not sell any for one year, he would have at least 1500 at the end of that time. This gives a notion of the extraordinary rate at which these little animals increase. They are most commonly kept in boxes, an allowance of two square feet for each rabbit being made, and the understanding is that the more they eat the bigger will be the profit.

In Germany several millions of wild hares are killed annually, and not only are they eaten in vast quantities by all classes, but their carcasses are exported to Paris, London and Switzerland. Hares are as definite a part of the annual product of the land as beef or potatoes, and the wholesale destruction of them cannot be said to be attended by any cruelty, inasmuch as, if not killed off closely each autumn, they would become too numerous and a dangerous nuisance. In Leipzig and many other cities and towns of Germany there are regularly organized rabbit-breeding clubs, and these associations hold exhibitions every year, to which rabbits are sent from all over the empire.

Reliance may be placed in the accuracy of the data here set forth, inasmuch as they have been gathered recently by consular agents of this government in Europe. From their statements it appears that Belgium is another country where vast numbers of rabbits are raised for food. Indeed, five distinct varieties are bred for market in Belgium, and are known respectively as the "ordinary Flemish," the "Flemish Giant," the "Russian," the "silvery" and the "Angora." The first of these is the Belgian wild rabbit domesticated; it weighs 6 to 8 pounds alive, and is greyish with spots of black or white. The Flemish giant belongs to the same race, and differs from the variety just described only in size, being the largest of all rabbits raised in Belgium. Though equally good as food, it is comparatively scarce. Its average live weight is 15 to 18 pounds, and when dressed it weighs 10 or 11 pounds. It is chiefly raised for exhibition purposes, and an exceptional specimen weighing 20 pounds will sell for \$8. Just think, if you please, of a rabbit weighing 20 pounds!

The Angora rabbit is comparatively small, but has very long hair, which must be carefully combed every week in order to keep it clean. The combings sell at \$1.25 to \$1.75 a pound, and are especially used in the manufacture of priests' hats. These rabbits sell alive at \$2 to \$2.25 each; they are the rarest variety in Belgium, and are raised mainly for exhibition. Immense numbers of the ordinary Flemish rabbits are slaughtered about Easter-time, when four or five months old, their weight being 3 to 4 pounds and the price 13 cents a pound. After the skins have been removed, the carcasses are packed in wooden cases for export. The skins, stretched and dried, sell for 3 cents each to dealers, who handle them in large quantities and dispose of them to makers of hats. The Belgian giants are usually raised in dry pens, well lighted and ventilated. In France, on the other hand, the most approved method of rearing the Russian rabbits is to let them run free in large warrens surrounded by wire fences.

Rabbit pelts are utilized for imitating many of the most expensive kinds of furs, including seal, white fox, black fox, lynx, ermine and otter. From 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 of the skins are collected in Russia annually, and these are the finest of all. Their natural white color imitates the white fox, and they are easily dyed so as to counterfeit lynx and black fox. An excellent imitation of the fur of the Arctic fox, worth \$50 a skin, is made by waxing the tips of the rabbit hairs, and then dyeing the pelts brown. Thus the tips are left white, and the effect is beautiful.

Million or millions of rabbit skins are imported from Australia to Europe, where the fur is utilized for making hats. They are first

dried, and the coarse hairs are extracted by hand for use as bedding or upholstery. The fur is then clipped off by machine, the skins being fed between two rollers to a cylinder fitted with four razor-edged knives placed slantwise. The cylinder revolves at a high rate of speed, separating the fur from the skin and cutting the latter into thin thread-like strips. The fur, after being put through a blower, is ready for market. The blowing apparatus is 200 feet long, and through this the fur is carried by a strong current of air, thus separating the fine material from any coarse hair or other refuse that may be mixed with it. The skin strips are sold for glue stock and as material for the confectioner's product known as "jubebe."

Immense quantities of rabbit skins are imported into this country annually, most of them coming from Australia, for use in making hats. There is no reason why all of them should not be grown in the United States—i. e. raised by farmers. When it is considered how extensive is the market for pelts of this kind, not only for hats but for many other purposes, it seems surprising that Americans should not already have taken up the rabbit farming business on a large scale.

## DECORATED WHIST BOARDS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



the darkest obtainable—with beveled gold edges, and extra heavy.

Platinotype prints that never get mounted because the mounts cost so much may be a feature of other amateur collections; in this case there were a hundred or more on hand, all 5x7 inches in size. A careful selection of twelve prints from the lot gave a dozen pictures of general interest, and of considerable variety, landscapes and marines, some vertical and some horizontal. Of course care was taken to select such as would harmonize with the dark background. These prints were trimmed with a generous hand, on general principles, but especially since there would be none too much margin when they were mounted. For the same reason it was necessary to center them carefully, so that the opposite margins might be equal.

A steel punch was used to make four pairs of holes in each board, one pair on each side, in the center, the outside hole being as near the edge as practicable and the distance between the holes of each pair being determined by the width of the playing cards to be used upon the boards.

A handsomely printed calendar furnished a leaf from which were cut large numerals, 1 to 12, and these were pasted on the backs of the boards, in the center.

In a set of twelve boards, each player will have three leads. On the first round, the boards must face North, for instance; on the second round, for playing the "duplicate," they will face East. The boards are to face as the pictures on them face.

If the lead of board number one is with North the lead of board number two will be with East, that of board number three with South; that on board number four with West; and so on for the remaining eight boards. To indicate these leads two small gilt stars, ready gummed, such as are obtained at the stationery stores for counters at progressive card parties, were used. These were fixed at the edge of the picture on the appropriate side of the board.



DUPLICATE WHIST BOARD.

Ordinary black elastic webbing, an eighth of an inch wide, was passed through each pair of holes and was sewn together on the back, making a single durable band to hold the cards in place. This completed the work and the board was ready for the cards.

The set described seems to have many advantages over most of those offered for sale. The dark mount shows no soil from handling and the bands are infinitely better than ordinary rubber bands held together by hooks or other contrivances, which may scratch the table. No attempt is usually made to ornament the stock patterns sold in the stores.

The pictures have been very much admired. Madame H—, who comes in often to play with this particular set of boards, always looks at the pictures throughout the set before beginning to play, so that her attention may not be distracted during the game, she says.

For the photographer who delights in duplicate whist, the making of an original and beautiful set of boards is simple. Such a set, too,

**\$4.95 BUYS A MAN'S ALL WOOL SUIT**

of Rich, Blue Serge, warranted best fast color, guaranteed equal in quality, style and looks to others \$10.00 suits.

**THE MATERIAL** is Mall's best all wool blue serge, famous everywhere for its perfect weave, soft feel and rich, deep blue color. The cloth was woven by America's Best Woolen Mills from fine picked wool yarn, dyed by a new process and cannot fade. It is medium weight and suitable for year around wear; is firmly woven, will positively not fade or wear shiny, and will wear like leather. It's exactly the same cloth used in the serge suits that retail everywhere for \$10.00. Remember we will sell only 1800 suits at \$4.95—after they're gone the price will be \$6.00. Don't delay, but order to-day before they are all gone.

**EXPERT SUIT TAILORS** will make the suit in the latest sack style to fit perfectly; line it with Holman's celebrated farmer satin, pipe it with Skinner's AAA satin, pad it extra well, use best grade of canvas and sew every seam with pure silk and linen thread.

**SEND NO MONEY**—We'll send the suit by express C.O.D. and allow you to examine and try it on before you pay one cent. If exactly as represented, the greatest bargain on earth and worth double the price ask, then pay the express agent \$4.95 and expressage, and take the suit. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory.

**WE SELL 1800 SUITS AT \$4.95** for advertising purposes. After they are gone the price goes back to \$6.00—no more at \$4.95 after 1800 are sold.

Order quick or they'll be gone. You can't afford to miss this wonder chance. **The Louis R. Vebos Co. 155 W. Jackson St. Chicago.**

**\$16.50 NO MONEY IN ADVANCE!!**

**Better Wheels at Lower Prices than Ever Before Offered.**

1899 styles shipped C. O. D., subject to examination to anyone anywhere, in lots of one or more. Our Arlington No. 69 is a high grade, honest made wheel, as near perfection as it can be made and equal to others sold at \$25 to \$35. Equipped with a first class tire, two piece hanger, choice of handle bars, double saddle, hall bearing throughout, first class in every respect, a wheel fit for a King at the exceedingly low price of **\$16.50.** A one year written guarantee goes with it.

**Arlington No. 69.**

If You Want a Good Low Priced Wheel Buy the "Brunswick" at \$14.50. Others at \$13.50, \$11, \$10 all good wheels and everyone a bargain and shipped as low as **\$7.50** at \$13.50, \$11, \$10 all good wheels and everyone a bargain and shipped as low as **\$7.50**

As to our reliability we refer to the First National Bank of Chicago or any Chicago Bank, Express Company and Dan's or Bradstreet's Commercial Reports. Large Illustrated Catalogue FREE, explaining all about our "No Money in Advance Plan." Write today for Special Offer and testimonials.

**CASH BUYERS' UNION, 162 W. Van Buren St., Dept. 5 Chicago, Ills.**

makes a handsome and acceptable holiday gift, with the giver's personality plainly expressed in his work. Of course the pictures need not be platinotypes. Even a dozen pretty blue prints, on cards offering a suitable background, would serve to make an attractive set. Nor must the pictures be 5x7 inches in size. Prints 4x5 would look well on the 11x14 mounts or if preferred, they could be mounted on 10x12 cards. Ordinarily cards larger than 11x14 would not be suitable, owing to the limited size of most card tables.

The matter of expense may be regulated by the maker to suit his pocketbook, in the quality of the mounts and the kind of prints used. The set described cost, for mounts, \$1.20; for platinotypes (paper only) 60 cents; for elastic webbing, 15 cents. The stars were on hand, but they cost only a few cents. Some obliging neighbor always has a punch to loan, if there is none in the family. The boards cost, then, \$1.95, or with twelve packs of playing cards at 20 cents, \$4.35 complete. By using cheaper materials they need not have cost half that sum, but in this case, "money was no object." The set was made in an evening.

The illustration shows one of the boards described, and the picture is of a bend in the Quinebaug River, near Southbridge, Massachusetts.

**HAIR TREATMENT FREE.**

When your hair begins to fall, you may know that you are on the high road to baldness. When your scalp is covered with dandruff, and is itchy and irritable, your hair will soon begin to fall. Dandruff and hair-falling may go on for months or years but the end is always the same—baldness.

When your hair first falls, new hair may come in, finer in texture than the first. This may fall and be replaced by still finer; at last this will fall, and none come to replace it, and you may have to go through life with a shiny poll.

The moral is to keep your hair when you have it. To take care of it while you may. To fight dandruff perseveringly and persistently. To kill the scalp microbe of dandruff, from which all hair trouble arises. The way to do it, as Horace Greeley said, is to do it. When it is too late, it is too late. Begin now.

The old way, upon which all hair treatment was founded, was to stimulate the scalp, by strong, irritating, drawing lotions the constant use of which is dangerous and harmful to the scalp skin. It is not the skin that is sick. It is the hair root. The microbe there, and must be destroyed before the hair can be made well.

Cranitonic Hair Food the perfect formula of Dr. E. Fabrig, Professor of Chemistry and Doctor of Science, will do it.

It DESTROYS the microbe. It NOURISHES the hair back to health. It will cure dandruff, prevent baldness and restore the youthful color to the hair when prematurely gray.

Cranitonic Hair Food will do this because it is a scientific microbicide and food for the hair, and thus goes directly to the root of the trouble.

Cranitonic Hair Food is not a dye. It has no dangerous, sticky, heavy sediment to poison the scalp, clog the pores, mat the hair or stain the clothing. It is pure and clear as crystal, perfectly harmless and will cure when everything else has failed.

To prove its efficacy we will send to all who write mentioning COMFORT a FREE BOTTLE of Cranitonic Hair Food, by mail, prepaid.

Simply send your name and full address to Cranitonic Hair Food Co., 526 West Broadway, New York, when the free bottle will be mailed to you.

**BEAUTIFUL PIECES FOR PATCH WORK.**

Huge large squares such as our grandmothers used in a thousand ways for patchwork. We give away to any one who will send six cents for one package of these great squares. This is to introduce our mammoth illustrated catalogue into new homes where bargains are wanted and to obtain your address to send future favors to. Be sure to get one or more of these packages, we will send to your friend for an additional six cents. **S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Me.**

**1899 BICYCLES, WATCHES, FREE CAMERAS, MANDOLINS, GUITARS**

You can quickly earn a premium by selling a few boxes of our high-grade Toilet Soap to your neighbors. No money required in advance. Our plan the best even Roy and Girdle do well. Our premiums assured as money will buy. Large illustrated list mailed free. Write today for full particulars. **H. H. DA WSON SOAP CO., 56 Fifth Av., Dept. 78, Chicago**

**WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.**

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us \$1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us \$1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

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**Beautiful Presents Free.**

Five Beautiful, all different, full sized QUILT BLOCK DESIGNS, bright colors, 8 to 11 inches square, and a lovely cut table ornament ABSOLUTELY FREE, if you will send us 10 cents for postage and give us the names and addresses of six carpet weavers, or hard-working men or women who might wish to learn rag-carpet weaving. Address **THE NEWCOMB LOOM CO., 326 W. St., Davenport, Iowa.**

**PIMPLES**

left soft, clear and rosy. 25-cent package sent for only 10 cents. Dr. M. Morgan, 532 Decatur St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

**\$5.00 WORTH OF DRESSMAKING MODELS FREE.**

We are introducing an entirely new system of Model Dressmaking and will send any lady interested a complete set of three models, together with full instructions in the new art. With the simple A B C directions which we send any girl or woman can learn to cut, fit and make garments with these models in a few minutes and hours. They would take weeks and months, and money to accomplish by any other method. This instruction on the Model plan is the latest, most simple and most reliable tailor system of dress cutting ever invented. Only three dressmaking requirements required. Any one can make them without malice or mistakes of any kind. No time or materials wasted. No worry, no expense, no disappointment. A perfect fit guaranteed. It fits any figure. Thoroughly up-to-date. Even if you have never made a garment you can follow any fashion plate you fancy and make a dress, suit, or dress, which your friends will declare was made by the most stylish experienced dressmaker. If you are already a dressmaker and have a dozen other systems on hand don't fail to send for this Easy Model Method system. This system offers young people a great opportunity for money making. It costs you nothing to get it and you can return it if you do not care to enter our money-making plan. These models are sent up to us for \$5.00 per set, but in order to introduce them quickly we will send one set of models to you free, all charges paid, so it won't cost you a cent to examine into the plan.

**SHIRT WAIST SET FREE.**

If you like it or can sell it to a friend for \$5.00, we will send you a beautiful Silver Shirt Waist set free. This set consists of elegant beauty pins, one pair silver cuff links, one collar button stud as illustrated here. Set of the latest design and the same as sold for \$25. at stores. If you send us \$5.00, now for a two year subscription to "COMFORT" we will send you a Silver Set and Model System free, all charges paid. Also includes a Red Diamond Stick pin free. You can sell either set or System or both for \$10.00 and make money taking further orders. "COMFORT'S" DRESS SYSTEM, Box 821, Augusta, Maine.



## SWEET MABEL MOORE.

TAYLOR GRIMES.

RUFUS C. GARLAND.

Waltz tempo.

1. Fair - est of all vil - lage maid - ens, . . . Mod - est and charm - ing - ly  
2. Ten - der your smile when I meet you, . . . Bright - er the world when you

shy, . . . Lips like the rent in a rose - leaf, . . . Eyes like the blue of the sky, . . . Swift - ly you've sent your darts  
speak, . . . There pass - es when - ev - er I greet you, . . . Tinge of a blush o'er your cheek. . . . Can these be the signs that I

fly - ing, . . . Piercing my heart to the core, . . . Oh, leav - ing me hope - less - ly sigh - ing, . . . With love for you, sweet Ma - bel Moore.  
look for, . . . The blush and the smile that I saw; . . . Oh, can it be true that you love me, . . . That you love me, sweet Ma - bel Moore?

CHORUS. *a tempo.*  
Sweet Ma - bel Moore, . . . you . . . I a - dore; . . . Your glanc - es so fleet - ing, have set my heart beat - ing With pleas - ure it ne'er felt be -

*rall.* *a tempo.* *mf* *rall - en - tan - do.*  
fore. . . Tho' I have tried . . . all . . . signs to hide, . . . I'm sure you see clear - ly, how fond - ly, how dear - ly, I love you, my

*I* *2*  
sweet Ma - bel Moore. . . sweet Ma - bel Moore. . .

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## The Ancient Troubadours.

## How Music and Poetry were Preserved and Fostered in the Middle Ages.

The announcement of a series of lectures before New York art circles on the Troubadours has caused considerable interest and much discussion; and has called attention to the great debt modern musical culture is under to these people of whom so much is said in all accounts of life in the middle ages.

In our present days of enlightenment we can scarcely conceive the condition of even the most wealthy people in those times. Everything was in a semi-barbarous condition and outside rude athletic sports or dangerous tournaments there was

but little amusement. Books there were none save such written lore as might be found in abbeys and other religious institutions. The rich feudal lords kept state in their castles and wore the long evenings out with riotous debauchery and song at the table. Each great man supported a throng of soldiers, servants and retainers, who were amused with the jokes and antics of the court jester or listened enthralled by the singing of the minstrels and troubadours.

The word troubadour comes from the French words meaning to find art. In these early days the troubadours put the deeds of great men into poetry and accompanying themselves on instruments would sing these lyrical songs for the delectation of the people in the strongholds. They were the newsgatherers of their day and repeated the tales of blood and war and love as our newspapers do to-day. It is easy to see by this how

welcome such artists must have been as a break in the dull monotony of castle life.

In course of time minstrelsy became an art and many of the poems and songs were written and are preserved. Some of them are even now sung as national airs in modified form. Had it not been for the troubadours the art of music and poetry would have practically died out in the middle ages of modern civilization; but they carried it along in constantly improving lines and laid the foundations of the best in modern musical art. Readers of COMFORT will find much amusement and instruction in reading more of these artists who really did so much for us; but the lack of space in this paper prevents further details.

Before closing these few words on this class of singing poets we wish to call the reader's attention to the fact that all our modern songs are directly traceable to the environments of the times and

that many songs suggested by love, war or sentiment are in a modern way products of the same art the troubadours cultivated and preserved. We publish above a beautifully sentimental piece which is winning much favorable comment.

COMFORT has always prided itself on being the "People's paper" and giving its readers the best of everything at nominal cost; but in its production of modern high-class music we feel that we have outstripped all records. It certainly is a source of deep gratification to feel that COMFORT by its modern methods is doing so much for the advancement of art and cultivation among many who would be debarred such privileges were it not for the liberal offers we make. If you have the slightest interest in music either for yourself or a friend look at our wonderful music offer on another page. Remember this is full sheet music and we guarantee return of money in any case where there is dissatisfaction. Nothing can be fairer than that. Make just one trial to-day.



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

**O**F first-class machines there is but little variation from those of last year; but of second-class machines the number is much less. It has been found in practice that the second-class machines built from parts that are made by various firms, lack stability and strength. Like everything else, in bicycles the best is the cheapest. So it is that we find but little change in the form or character of the wheels from that they had a year ago.

In the good old days before we rode on trains, walking was a capital exercise, but to go a wheel in the early summer morning along the quiet roads and through the shady groves is a sensation of delight in which elation is the dominating factor. It has brought health to many a weakened man and made the roses to bloom on many a woman's cheek. It is superb, thrilling and magnificent; none of the adjectives can do it justice.

The wheel has come to stay. It came first as the velocipede, 40 years ago; then it developed into the high-wheeled bicycle, and from thence into the safety. A safety it is and a safety it will remain with gears and sprockets and improvements innumerable; but still a safety.

Col. Albert A. Pope, is the American to whom, perhaps, belongs the development of the wheel. He invented the big-wheeled bicycle and had valuable aid in the favor and service of Mr. Paul Butler and Mr. Willis Farrington.

The "Safety" has revolutionized the modes of travel, supplied a new source of pleasure and added a permanent industry to the business interests of the world. The improvements have been very great and have been suggested by mechanical skill of the finest description. Nothing has been spared to make the machine perfect, and in the bicycles of this year that stage has almost been reached. The superiority of the chainless wheel has been proven after long and exacting tests, and it is to have the favor which excellence and cheapness commands. Last year, a chainless machine cost \$125; this year the chainless costs \$75.

Bicycles are numerous and there does not seem to be a very great difference in their variety. The patterns are almost identical and whatever bought are bound to give satisfaction. Only one thing to remember, that if you want a good wheel you must pay for it.

The "jointed crank" is one of the new things in bicycle parts. This is formed by using the ordinary crank and pedal in connection with an intermediate fitting, 1 1/4 inches in length and weighing four ounces, which connects the crank-end and pedal-pin, so that the pedal swings just below its accustomed place, after the fashion of a swinging pedal. The result is that the rider is enabled to use a frame two inches lower than usual, or a saddle adjustment lower to that extent, and to overcome both dead center and chain back lash.

In addition, the leverage is so varied that it reaches its highest power at the forward thrust and its minimum on the upward stroke, where little power is needed. Among the additional advantages claimed are ease in hill-climbing, decreased vibration of the pedal, increased power in back-peddaling and lessened chance of serious accident should the pedal strike an obstruction.

With regard to the new bikes for the summer, the frames show a uniformity in design and height much like those in vogue last year. Short heads predominate, and as a general thing there is possibly a slight decrease in the drop of the crank-hanger. There is a disposition to run to higher gears and longer cranks, and wider and higher handle-bars seem to be in the most conspicuous.

In the bevel-gear chainless wheels a new adjustment is shown which ought to appeal to the average rider. Under the old arrangement when the rider wished or thought that he wanted his gears adjusted he was forced to take his wheel to an expert dealer. With the new arrangement he can adjust the cogs with about the same ease that a man can adjust the chain on the regular wheel. The adjustment is made with a nut on the outside of the shaft, and it can be made without the cups being removed. There is a sort of tongue groove arrangement on the inside of the shoulder.

The new Columbia chainless machines for

impart to these new models attractiveness and style. Certain important changes have been made in the running gear. The forward mechanism, which last year was assembled directly into the crank bracket itself, is now placed in an independent bushing or sleeve,



THE EIFFEL TOWER BICYCLE.

which is inserted in the bracket and clamped in position. The gear adjustments, both front and rear, have been made independent of each other, thus greatly simplifying the operation of bringing the gears to mesh. The ball race of each gear bearing forms a part of the gear itself bringing the bearing directly into the line of thrust, and doing away with all danger of springing the gears in hard pedaling.

The company has devoted especial attention to the production of tandems of the double diamond and combination types, and believes that the present models are the strongest, safest and easiest running tandems ever manufactured. They are offered as embodying everything essential to the comfort, convenience and perfect enjoyment of the many who gain exhilaration and pleasure in riding machines of this class.

One of the New York talking machine companies is sending out on its cylinders a humorous tale of a one-legged farmer, who attached a bicycle to a mowing machine and won a prize at cutting hay. This fiction has now developed into a fact, for in one of the small towns on the Hudson River is a man who has actually made the combination. By dismantling his bicycle and attaching it to the lawn mower he is able to cut grass on level ground with very little difficulty. It is announced that he expects to be able to so improve the machine that it will operate safely upon hillsides.

In Chicago, there is already the "Eiffel Tower bike;" the frame is between 9 and 10 feet high and braced strong enough so that the rider can sit on it safely and see everything on the road. He climbs up the ladder-like frame and wheels off as though he were monarch of all he surveys. The affair will scarcely become popular, however.

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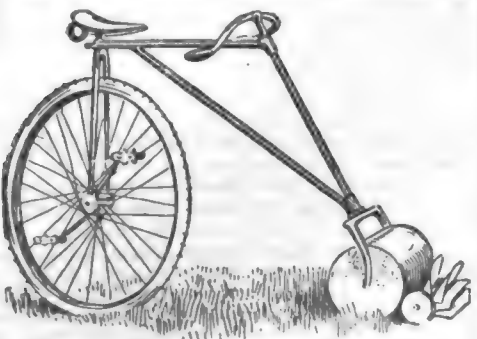
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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.</li> <li>1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.</li> <li>1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 8 1/2x6 1/2.</li> <li>1 Design for Scarf Corner, 6 1/2x10.</li> <li>1 Clover Design for Dolly.</li> <li>1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.</li> <li>1 Design for Cheese Dolly, 3 1/2x6.</li> <li>1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5 1/2x6.</li> <li>1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.</li> <li>1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.</li> <li>4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Dollies, 3 1/2x3 1/2.</li> <li>1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11 1/2x15 1/2.</li> <li>1 Design for Tumbler Dolly, 4x4.</li> <li>1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.</li> <li>1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.</li> <li>1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6.</li> <li>4 Designs for Butter Plate Dollies, 3 1/2x3 1/2.</li> <li>1 Cut Work Dolly Design, 5x5.</li> <li>1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.</li> <li>1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.</li> <li>1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6 1/2x6 1/2.</li> <li>1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.</li> <li>1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.</li> <li>1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9 1/2x9 1/2.</li> <li>1 Rosebud Dolly, 7 1/2x7 1/2.</li> <li>1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1 1/4 inches high.</li> <li>1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.</li> <li>1 Pansy Dolly, 6 1/2x6 1/2.</li> <li>1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch h/g.</li> <li>1 Border for Flannel Work, 3 1/2 inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.</li> </ul> |
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## THE PRESIDENT'S HAT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



**P**RESIDENT McKinley recently visited New England. A vast crowd of humanity packed closely in to Dewey Square, Boston. Drawn up beside the station was a handsome landau with four spirited horses attached. A sudden swaying of the crowd, cheer after cheer upon the air and the President of the United States was escorted to the carriage. The dignified coachman on the box was the one silent and motionless human being in all that vast assemblage. The familiar lifting of the hat, the bare head, the debonnaire bow as the carriage made its way through the crowd. The dinner given by the Home Market Association, the largest dinner ever given under cover in this country; the State House hastily visited; the Commercial Club breakfast; a hurried drive to the station; the shouting crowd; a receding figure, hat in hand, on the platform of a car, and the President's visit to Boston was over.

Before the wheel of fortune brought us so many times into close proximity to the Executive of this nation, it had been our impression that a man's hat belonged on his head. This may be the general rule. To it, there is one exception at least. The hat of a President evidently belongs in his hand. The poet in embryo who wrote,

"I would I were the President  
Of these United States,  
All day I would do nothing  
But swing on all the gates,"

should have added, *with my hat on*, if he had wished to convey a perfect expression of blissful freedom from all responsibilities.

The day of the inauguration of William McKinley, President Cleveland and the President-elect rode together to the Capitol, as is the custom. During the ride both gentlemen were called upon, from time to time, to acknowledge the greetings of the people. On their return, however, after the oath of office had been administered, the hat of Mr. Cleveland was placed squarely on his head, with a firm, immovable, put-there-to-stay expression, that seemed to indicate the wearer's satisfaction in relegating one of the penalties of greatness, at least, to the bowing gentleman by whose side he rode.

Mr. McKinley's hat failed to fulfill its mission as a head covering, several months before that fourth of March, 1897. From the time the button touched at St. Louis set the cannon booming and the bells ringing in Canton, Ohio, to announce the nomination of its townsman, to that election night in November on which the inhabitants knew neither sleep nor rest—when the screaming of steam whistles and the tooting of horns, made Fourth of July a thing of beauty by comparison—the hat of Major McKinley seldom found a resting place on the crown of his head.

There was an interest, a unique charm, an excitement about Canton during those months that can be realized only by those whose walks in life led them up and down its broad and brick-paved avenues.

On the day of nomination, as soon as the mouth of the cannon announced the welcome news, the waiting crowd like a mighty torrent surged through the streets of Canton. The townspeople poured into the market-place from east, west and south. Hemmed in by the buildings on either side, together they rushed along to the McKinley homestead. The first speech of the nominee had scarcely ended when a delegation rolled into the station from Alliance, twenty miles away. The members had been seated in a special train waiting for the word that sent them spinning down the track, almost beating Canton itself by their prompt appearance.

From that day the town gave up work as a means of livelihood and plunged headlong into the dissipation of a "home campaign." Badges and decorations appeared as by magic, and every breast that throbbed for Mr. McKinley was freely frescoed with knobs and buttons. Among womankind baking on Saturdays became as one of the lost arts. That day was the favorite one for arrivals, and the town put on an extra air of gaiety. Train after train, decorated with flags and streamers, bearing on top as well as inside the cars their loads of liv-

ing freight, drew into the station. There were processions of all kinds, and bands of all tones. There were companies of six-footers and companies of first voters. There were groups of women headed by brass bands played by members of their own sex. Often, several delegations marching behind music paraded the streets, keeping out of the way until a more fortunate delegation already at the house of the nominee, was received and despatched. Of what use was the hat of Mr. McKinley in those days?

Canton is in Stark County. In 1892 the State Treasurer of Pennsylvania was elected by the largest Republican vote ever polled there for that office. A coon captured in Stark County was sent as a present to the Treasurer, with the request that it be returned in 1896, on the nomination of Major McKinley for President.

One day a special car came in, bearing a perfect model of the White House. Snugly enclosed within the walls rode its tenant, the Republican coon, formerly of Stark County. The house was made in Apollo, Pennsylvania, of McKinley American tin, and the front door bore in bas relief, the face of William McKinley. Another day, representatives of the plumbers in Pittsburgh came marching up the street, bearing on their shoulders a bath-tub of porcelain and gold, whereupon the Democratic paper quietly remarked that Mr. Bryan had a bathtub in his home and didn't need one as a present.

Intense excitement prevailed among the children as well. The little six years old daughter of a Democratic neighbor announced to her astonished family that she proposed to marry the little son in our own home. "But first," said she, "I must find out if he is for Bryan." Support of Mr. Bryan being one of the necessary conditions, the marriage was indefinitely postponed.

After the November elections, the delegations disappeared. The grounds about the McKinley homestead were left as barren as a base ball field. Other lawns gave hints of past verdure and of future life, but the heath of McKinley was trodden to dust beneath the heel of the patriotic American. Another wooden fence replaced the one literally torn down and lugged away by relic hunters. Then the wheels of that machinery which was to force the country through four more years of its history, began to be oiled. Men of brain, men of influence, men of power now stepped from the trains as they rolled daily into the little Canton station. A close confidential talk between the visitor and the President-elect would at once take place, often followed by a stroll up the street and a call on Mr. McKinley's mother.

Madam McKinley in her quiet home, welcomed and enjoyed the society of all who cared to see her. Nowhere in Canton was there a more hospitable house for an afternoon chat.

"I hear that William was your favorite son," said a visitor, on one occasion.

"No, he was not," returned the old lady, stoutly, "I had no favorite son. One child was the same as another to me, and William was just like the other boys, no better, no worse."

"Give my love to your son," said she, a little later. "Tell him that he will grow up to be a good man, and be a power."

"My son will be much pleased to receive that message from you," the visitor responded.

"Well," said Madam McKinley, with decision, "I think the boys should have some notice taken of them. They like to feel that they are appreciated, that there is a place for them in the world, and something to do. I am sorry that you haven't a daughter too," she added, gently, "for there is a place in the mother's heart and life that only a daughter can fill." No momentary forgetfulness of daughter here—a forgetfulness that might be forgiven, in view of motherly pride in a son called to be the head of a nation.

Passing up the street in the gathering dusk, we often saw the President's mother sitting quietly and alone, by the window. Now and again she would lift her eyes from her knitting to peer at the passers by through her gold-bowed spectacles. Farther down the street, great men came and went, and the months rolled on.

"Do not let them spoil you in Washington," Madam McKinley said we on the afternoon of our farewell call.

"Oh, they can't do that," was the smiling answer. "I am only a plain woman."

"Well, then, good bye, and may you have a pleasant visit."

"I am sure she will have a pleasant visit," put in her daughter Helen, quickly. "Mother usually carries her happiness with her, wherever she goes."

Don't join a "Don't Worry" club. Don't try not to worry. A little worry is a good thing for the human race. How are we ever going to progress, to grow, if we are perfectly satisfied with our present state, and never try to better it? The world was never intended to stand still.

## UNCLE SAM'S NEW MARKETS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



**A**MERICANS generally have an acute interest just now in the demands of the markets secured through the absorption of the islands and archipelagoes which have newly become part and parcel of Uncle Sam's domain.

The question is how to furnish what the inhabitants of these island-groups require—to give them what they want, at prices that will be satisfactory to seller and buyer. To begin with, it is necessary to find out what the people of the freshly-acquired realms are anxious to purchase, and this is no easy matter from the Yankee point of view.

Just for example, the case of sandals. From the every-day American standpoint, sandals are footwear belonging to the ancients, but absurd when considered in connection with modern civilization. Call them absurd if you like; but the fact is that sandals are worn generally to-day by the common people in Cuba, in Porto Rico, and in the Philippines. In fact, and this is where the point of the argument comes in—they are very nearly the most important article of importation into the West Indies now.

You take a length of small rope, and, beginning in the middle, you wind it around and around upon itself until it reaches the bigness of a shoe-sole. To this, when it is properly constructed, you add a cloth "upper," and you have a very substantial shoe. This it is that in Cuba, Porto Rico, or the Philippines is called a sandal. For wear in a hot climate it is vastly more suitable than the every-day leather shoe. Thus, it is not surprising to learn that the Cubans have been accustomed hitherto to buy from Spain more than \$2,500,000 worth of sandals every year.

When the American manufacturer realizes this opportunity, he will begin to make sandals, and will produce them at a cheaper rate than has hitherto been known. That is what Yankee enterprise means. It is worth while incidentally, to call attention to the fact that hitherto Cuba has been accustomed to import from Spain about \$3,200,000 worth of ordinary leather shoes. Of course, the only reason why they were got from Spain was that the government of the Iberian Peninsula chose to put prohibitory duties on shoes from other countries. From now on, the Cubans will be shod by American shoemakers. Within the last few months a great change has taken place in Cuba, from the view-point of the American manufacturer. The latter finds no longer any opposition to the introduction of his products in the island, and he is at liberty to send thither whatever he wants to send, with the certainty that if the stuff is good it is bound to sell. At present Cuba manufactures practically nothing, so that there is a clear field in that quarter.

When the Spaniards were in control, they exercised such a discrimination against the products of the United States, by imposing exorbitant duties on merchandise imported from this country, as to shut out our manufactures to a great extent. This was particularly outrageous in view of the fact the bulk of Cuban products was bought in the United States. It was as if you were to cut your best friend on the street—to make a practice of cutting him, that is to say, although he continued persistently to give you money to help you along. Happily, thanks to the recent war, this situation has been done away with, and now American manufacturers find the Cuban market open to them for the first time.

This is why it is worth while to know exactly what the Cubans want to buy. The figures of their imports from Spain in recent years show that they require more than \$20,000,000 worth of wheat flour every year. Of cigarette paper they require about \$2,000,000 worth. They call for \$2,000,000 worth of beans, and for \$600,000 worth of other dried vegetables. Of onions, garlic and potatoes, they demand \$1,200,000 worth from outside. Wine to the extent of \$8,000,000 worth finds a market on the island. They are ready to purchase \$1,500,000 worth of corn, an equal quantity of rice, and \$600,000 worth of butter. They are prepared to absorb annually \$3,700,000 worth of manufactures of flax and hemp, \$1,100,000 of woolen blankets, \$3,200,000 worth of soap, \$371,000 worth of silk, \$337,500 worth of cotton thread, \$588,000 worth of oils and paints, \$255,000 worth of salt, \$334,

000 worth of glass bottles, \$145,000 worth of mineral waters, \$177,000 worth of chemicals and medicines, \$172,000 worth of playing cards, and \$64,000 worth of perfumery.

Now, it must be realized that these figures relate merely to exports from Spain as recorded in recent years. They are given in such detail simply for the reason that the bulk of the imports of the island have been derived from that country hitherto. But, on inspection of the imports of the United States, it is found that we have furnished to the Cubans a supply of breadstuffs which in 1893 ran up to \$3,512,000 worth. Since that time, owing to the civil disturbance, the trade in this line went down to about one-third. Of bacon, in maximum years, we have sent to Cuba 10,000,000 pounds.

Naturally, we shall take from Spain the privilege of supplying Porto Rico with what that island needs. Up to the present time, it has been accustomed to receive from Spain annually \$250,000 worth of soaps, \$2,500,000 worth of cottons, \$1,100,000 worth of shoes, \$550,000 worth of rice, \$550,000 worth of petroleum, \$175,000 worth of felt hats, \$19,000 worth of umbrellas, and \$750,000 worth of sandals. These are the same kind of sandals that are in use in Cuba, with rope soles and cloth uppers. It is decidedly interesting to notice how certain people stick to certain things in the way of articles to eat and articles to be worn. Every year Porto Rico imports more than \$100,000 worth of soup pastes (vermicelli, etc.) and Cuba absorbs \$300,000 worth of them annually. Porto Rico has been accustomed to take from the United States from \$600,000 to \$850,000 worth of breadstuffs every year; of bacon and hams 1,500,000 pounds, of pickled pork 3,400,000 pounds and of lard 4,500,000 pounds.

The great requirement of the Philippines seems to be for cotton fabrics, of which they have been accustomed to import not far from \$6,000,000 worth annually. Their next most important import is of paper, which is about \$300,000 per annum. Then come preserved foods, representing a value of \$200,000, leather \$200,000, iron and steel \$175,000, sandals \$100,000, these are called "alparatas" in the archipelago, and umbrellas to the number of 650,000. Hats, buttons and pastes for soups are also in great demand.

For many years past the Hawaiian Islands have derived three-fourths of their imports from the United States, and about one-eighth of them from Great Britain. They want great quantities of clothing and haberdashery; likewise crockery, drugs, dry goods, blankets and fancy goods. From this country they have been accustomed to receive annually about \$75,000 worth of beer, \$36,000 worth of horses, \$26,000 worth of hogs, \$67,000 worth of mules; 125,000 pounds of shrimps, 180,000 pounds of assorted fish, 60,000 pounds of cornmeal, 27,000 pounds of oatmeal, 3,200,000 pounds of barley, 12,000,000 pounds of bran, 25,000 pounds of garlic, 220,000 pounds of hams, 370,000 pounds of lard, 230,000 pounds of laundry soap, 96,000 pounds of wire—not to mention great quantities of fresh fruits, wheat flour, furniture, wall paper, groceries, starch, sugar, agricultural tools, twine, leather, lumber and machinery.

A Maine genius announces that he has discovered the lost art of making the famous old Damascus steel, and that he has also found out how to harden copper and brass. He has been experimenting with metals in the village blacksmith shops for ten years, and has made several broadswords of copper, keen and strong as steel. He has made several knife blades and razors of copper; and has, himself, used a copper razor for months which shows no signs of dullness. A number of capitalists from Boston have made him flattering offers for his secret, which is, he says, the simplest thing in the world, and which every section worker, and every copper and brass worker tread upon every day while working at their trade and fail to see it.

Norway is the most blissful abode on the face of the earth for journalists. The state there provides them with all sorts of specialties. Lately, a fresh privilege has been granted to the press, in the shape of two scholarships, worth \$280 each, for journalists who wish to go abroad to study. Each of the one hundred and thirty Norwegian newspapers has also a free ticket over all the State railways. This can only be used for journeys connected with affairs of the newspaper, and the Press Association is bound to see that this condition is observed.

The countries where long finger nails are most effected are Siam, Assam, Cochinchina and China. The approved length varies from three or four to twenty-three inches. The aristocrats who allow themselves these luxuries are practically helpless. They can neither dress nor feed themselves nor even write.



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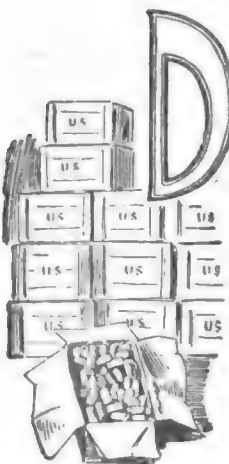
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## Uncle Sam's Smokeless Powder.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



During the recent war with Spain, Uncle Sam suffered greatly from lack of smokeless powder, with which the Spaniards were provided both on land and sea. It is not the intention of this government to be caught again at a similar disadvantage, and the utmost efforts have been made recently to provide this sort of ammunition for American ships and American troops. Large quantities of it have been purchased from private manufacturers by the War Department, and a considerable stock of it has been shipped to the Philippines, where plenty of it will be kept on hand in future. At the same time, at the urgent request of the Navy Department, Congress has furnished money for establishing a plant for making smokeless powder at Indian Head, on the Potomac near Washington.

All the powder now supplied for use on our naval vessels is of the smokeless kind; likewise all of that which is distributed to our soldiers at home and abroad, whether regulars or volunteers. It is not the wish of the government to compete with private firms in the production of this species of war material, and the annual output of the factory at Indian Head will not exceed 300,000 pounds—hardly more than would be needed to stock the magazines of a single battleship once. The purpose of the plant on the Potomac will be to set and maintain a standard of excellence in smokeless powder. Hitherto Uncle Sam has been obliged to purchase whatever in this line happened to be in the market, but in future none of the stuff will be bought that does not satisfy exacting tests.

Smokeless powder originated in France, and for a long time was regarded as a mystery, the processes of its manufacture being kept secret. Now, however, the method of its production has been reduced to a scientific basis, and in this direction during the last few years the Navy Department has carried exact chemical research to the extreme limit of practical refinement. It now has a powder known to experts as "pyro-cellulose," which is equal to, if not better than any smokeless powder used by foreign nations. It has been brought down to the simplest possible chemical combination, so that apparently there is nothing beyond. In short, it may be regarded as the standard of the world.

When ordinary black gunpowder is ignited, a puff of smoke follows its burning. This signifies imperfect combustion, and in war on sea or land it is a serious disadvantage, interfering with accuracy of aim. In the naval fight off Santiago the American ships were seriously embarrassed on this account, clouds of smoke made by their own guns interrupting their view of the enemy. Our troops besieging the Cuban city suffered from the same cause, being unable to locate the Spaniards who were firing at them, while their foemen could see by the puffs of smoke just where to shoot. It was justly felt to be a serious reflection upon our government that in such an important matter as this it should be behind old-fashioned Spain.

You take a bit of smokeless powder, set fire to it, and it is instantly transformed into nothingness, so to speak, being converted wholly into gases and leaving not a trace of ash or residue. Here we have an illustration of absolutely perfect combustion, and with this matter of complete burning the shape of the powder-grains has something to do. Accordingly, smokeless powders are made in various forms, some of which are decidedly curious. For instance, a famous French kind looks for all the world like yellowish brown paper. Anybody might mistake it for ordinary wrapping-paper, but if you take a scrap of it and touch it with a match, it flares up brilliantly and vanishes in an instant.

The smokeless powder now furnished by the Navy Department for use in small arms is somewhat similar to this, being manufactured in the shape of thin brownish papery sheets. It is not served out to the ships in this form, however, but is chopped up into little bits of square pieces and packed thus into cartridges for the rifles and machine guns. For the big guns exactly the same kind of powder is used, but it is turned out in long rods of various diameters suitable to different calibers. These rods are perforated from end to end with a number of holes or canals, so as to allow the igniting fire to "set off" the stuff more quickly. Before being delivered for service, the rods are cut into short lengths, so that they appear in the form of cylinders.

The Navy smokeless powder is pure guncotton, treated with a mixture of ether and alcohol. On the other hand, the smokeless powder now used by the Army is 80 per cent. guncotton and 20 per cent. nitroglycerine. As supplied for field and coast-defense guns, this latter kind of powder has the same form as that favored by the Navy—i. e., cylinders "multiperforated," but for small arms it is made in long strings like packthread and chopped up into little bits of cylindrical pieces. Up to date, the War Department has made no attempt to manufacture smokeless powder in a large way, though it has conducted experiments in this line at the Frankford Arsenal, in Philadelphia, where samples of all powders purchased for the Army are tested.

The Germans make their smokeless powders in rolls like maps. The rolls are sliced crosswise into long sticks, which are packed in bundles like toothpicks for machine guns, while for small arms the sticks are chopped into little cubes. One kind of French powder of the smokeless variety is so much like old-fashioned molasses candy that one is tempted to eat it. Again, the English smokeless powder known as "cordite" resembles thick strings of black rubber, which shape it assumes through having been forced through a colander in a semi-liquid state. Cordite is the most famous of all powders of this description, being extensively used in nearly every navy in the world. It is one of the safest explosives known, and is not dangerous unless confined. It can be held in the hand and lighted without

danger, burning slowly and with a bright flame.

The basis of all smokeless powders is guncotton dissolved in nitric acid, the latter element being afterward entirely removed. Quite simple is the process by which the common and harmless substance called cotton is converted into such a terrible explosive. Pure raw cotton is steeped in a solution of nitric and sulphuric acids, the former rendering the cotton explosive, while the latter helps the nitric acid to combine with the cellulose of which cotton consists. After soaking for hours, the cotton is squeezed under rollers and washed thoroughly to remove the free acid, which, if any of it remained, would tend to decompose the guncotton. Finally, the latter appears in the shape of a soft white pulp resembling paper pulp in appearance.

This is the stuff which the experts employed by the Navy Department transform into smokeless powder by treating it with ether and alcohol. The powder used by the War Department, as already stated, combines with it 20 per cent. of nitroglycerine. This substance called nitroglycerine is an oily, colorless liquid, produced by mixing a quantity of sulphuric acid with double the amount of nitric acid and allowing it to cool. To this mixture about one-eighth of its weight in glycerine is then added gradually; the acids are drawn off, and the residue (nitroglycerine) is washed and filtered. Nitroglycerine cannot be ignited easily by a flame, and a lighted match or taper plunged into it would be extinguished. It is set off by friction or by being struck, and its explosive force is about twelve times that of gunpowder.

Smokeless powder burns slowly—slowly, that is to say, for gunpowder—and on that account the guns built in future for our Navy will be longer than those now in service. This is necessary in order that the powder shall be wholly transformed into gas before the projectile has time to get out of the muzzle. Smokeless powder weighs much less per charge than the ordinary kind, and this means a considerable saving of weight of ammunition to be carried by each ship. During the conflict with Spain the American vessel that particularly distinguished itself by its marksmanship was the cruiser New Orleans, built in England for the government of Brazil and purchased by us just before hostilities were declared, together with her outfit of ammunition. Thanks to her provision of smokeless powder, the New Orleans, though not an armored vessel, was as efficient as any of our battleships.

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Only two words in the English language contain all the vowels in their proper order. They are "abstemious" and "facetious."

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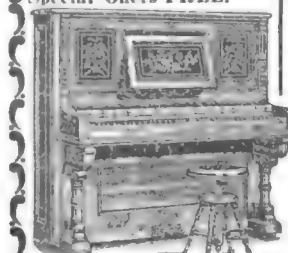
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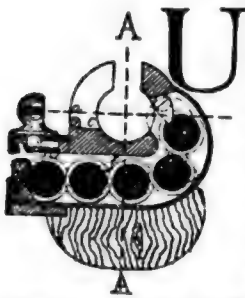
We send you Jewelry on Sale. Stick Pins for Neckties, Scarfs and the like are more popular than ever. We are obliged to take a lot of goods from a large manufacturer and will send you an assortment of pins to sell as here illustrated, as the stock must be moved at once. We therefore trust you with the goods. The Stick Pins are made into cute shapes of keys, ear-knives, pistols, etc., from pure white metal, riveted on to gold plate and are the fastest selling novelties out at 10c. each. The Ladies' Dress and Beauty Pins are the most modern pattern and offered at Bargain rates so you can sell from two to a dozen in nearly every house at five cents each. They come assorted Roman and bright gold and silver plated, and have an unlimited use. The hair, the waist, the neck, the dress, and in fact they are now required in all parts of the clothing.

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The Opal Ring FREE. You send us your full name and address and we send you the assortment as above to sell for five and ten cents each, you return the money \$1.20 cash to us and we send you all charges paid one of these Solid Gold Shell Opal Rings, besides the large opal in centre there are two small Rex Diamonds on either side as shown in cut. This makes a most attractive setting and these Rings are sold to us under a Three Years Guarantee. The manufacturers' own warrant goes with each one, that it is Solid Gold Shell and warranted to wear for Three Years. Buying these Rings in thousand lots as we do we get them at a great bargain and they cannot be detected from a \$12.00 Ring. If you desire an Emerald or Ruby instead of Opal we can send you either one. Send for the Jewelry outfit to-day. Address, ART JEWEL CO., Box 654, Augusta, Maine.

## The Latest Advances Made in the World's Small Arms.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



UPON a careful comparison of the Mauser gun with the Krag-Jorgensen it is found that there is little difference in point of function performed, and the structure differs but little except in matters of detail.

There are two general classes of magazine guns in use by the armies of the world: First—Those which may be used as single loaders while the magazine is charged. These arms may be properly termed "repeating" guns. Second—Those in which the magazine may be charged and then held in reserve while single fire is delivered, and the magazine fire being available at any moment.

Guns of the first class can be used as single loaders only when the magazine is empty; while those of the second class may be used as single loaders either when the magazine is filled or empty.

With the second class a cut-off is sometimes employed which prevents the loads in the magazine from being utilized when the gun is used as a single loader.

The small arms of Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Roumania are typical of the first class. England, Spain, Denmark and Switzerland use guns of the second class.

It will be obvious that a firearm which may either be used as a single loader or as a magazine gun has many advantages over a weapon which can only be used as a magazine gun or as a single loader when the magazine is empty. To illustrate one of the advantages of the guns of the second class: When soldiers are drawn up in line of battle, a column may fire and fall back, and a single loading gun is therefore just as desirable for the purpose as a magazine. But it is when a rush upon the enemy is ordered that the available five loads are of great service. On the other hand, to resist an onslaught of the enemy the reserve magazine is very useful. Soldiers in battle are inclined to become mere automatons. They load and fire oftentimes more by force of prearrangement than by operation of the mind at the time of firing. This is particularly true of the volunteer service. Moreover, extraordinary mechanical knowledge is not required of the ordinary soldier. Hence, to be a desirable firearm, simplicity of structure must be deemed a feature of much importance. Nearly all rapid fire guns in military use today have the sliding-bolt system of breech closure, and this is justly in great favor, because the movement is simple and the result certain. During the late civil war a dead soldier was found having a musket loaded with twelve charges, one on the other. Evidently he had first used a cartridge with a defective cap, and since the din of battle was sufficient to drown the noise of an explosion he thought the charge had been fired, and he then reloaded—repeating the act twelve times, and always striking the defective cap. With the sliding bolt guns such an occurrence would be impossible, as a defective cartridge would be ejected and a good one would be substituted.

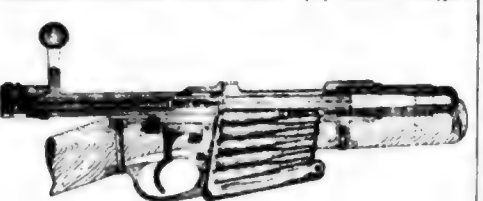
A board of officers of the U. S. army, constituted for the purpose of selecting magazine arms for use in the service, made a report based upon experiments and tests of some fifty-two guns of the most approved types from all parts of the world.

Following are the tests made and results attained with the Mauser gun.

Safety test—The gun was operated by the recorder of the board and fired from the shoulder ten shots in 25 seconds.

Regular tests. I. Rapidity with accuracy. (a) As single loader and then as repeating arm for contents of magazine. The gun having no cut-off this test could not be applied exactly as contemplated; it being possible however to fire the upper cartridge in the magazine, then replace it by another, and so on, thus maintaining a single loader fire with 4 cartridges held in reserve, the test was conducted in that manner. The 16 shots were fired in 63 seconds; the 4 from the magazine in 6 seconds—total 69 seconds; 20 hits. (b) As single loader for 2 minutes, 31 shots were fired with 30 hits. (c) A magazine for two minutes. 36 shots were fired and 4 cartridges left in magazine; 35 hits.

II. Rapidity at will. (a) As a single loader and then as a repeating arm for contents of magazine. Sixteen shots in 46 seconds, the four from the magazine in 5 seconds; total 51 seconds. (b) As a single loader for one minute—18 shots were fired. (c) As a maga-



KRAG-JORGENSEN.

zine arm for one minute. After third shot the locking catch was inadvertently turned, probably by operator's sleeve or arm, and the bolt locked. Resuming the test the cartridge clip of the first charge of the magazine was carried forward with the bolt jamming its action.

III. Endurance. (a) As magazine arm for 500 rounds. Seventeen failures to extract, the extractor tearing through head, leaving shell in chamber, and one failure where the head resisted, and shell only extracted by blows of a hammer on the head of the bolt. Two misfires, each exploded on second trial. This test was conducted in series of 50 shots, after each of which gun was cooled by passing a stream of water through the barrel. All failures to extract occurred in the latter portion of the sets of 50 shots, after the piece had become heated.

IV. Dust. (a) Magazine empty when exposed. Well dusted; bolt opened with difficulty. When endeavoring to close the bolt a number of efforts were required before it could be entirely pushed forward; then the bolt could not be rotated, the cuts for the lugs on bolt being

clogged with dust that could not be removed by the hand. (b) Magazine loaded when exposed. Well dusted; bolt worked more stiffly, but yet without much difficulty.

V. Defective cartridges. By the first defective shell that portion of the extractor which, when the bolt is locked, lies under the groove for the right-hand locking lug, and is therefore not supported, was so bent upwards that the bolt could not be turned until extractor had been forced by hammer and punch.

The tests made and results attained with the Krag-Jorgensen gun are given below:

Safety Test. The gun was operated by Mr. E. Jorgensen and fired from the shoulder, 10 shots in 32 seconds. Regular tests. (a) As single loader and then as repeating arm for contents of magazine. The capacity of the magazine being 5 cartridges; 15 shots were fired a single loader in 44 seconds, the 5 from the magazine in 10 seconds; total, 54 seconds; 16 hits. (b) As a single loader for 2 minutes. 38 shots were fired and 1 cartridge introduced into chamber; 35 hits. (c) As magazine arm for two minutes. 43 shots were fired and 1 cartridge left in chamber, with 38 hits.

Rapidity at will. (a) As single loader and then as repeating arm for contents of magazine. The 15 shots as single loader in 32 seconds, the 5 from magazine in 7 seconds, total 39 seconds. (a) As single loader for 1 minute. 29 shots were fired, of which one missed fire. (c) As magazine arm for one minute—thirty-five shots were fired, and one cartridge from the eighth packet introduced into the magazine.

Endurance. (a) As magazine arm for 500 rounds. Breech and magazine mechanism worked well and easily. (b) As single loader for 100 rounds. Mechanism worked easily in all particulars.

Dust. (a) Magazine empty when exposed. Thoroughly dusted. Mechanism worked easily. (b) Magazine loaded when exposed, thoroughly dusted. First cartridge from magazine not fed into receiver until point of bullet freed by hand; mechanism then worked well.

Defective cartridges. No injury whatever from the three forms of defectives. Gun worked well.

Excessive charges. Bolt opened easily; mechanism worked well and freely.

Ease of manipulation. Satisfactory.



MAUSER GUN.

As a result of these tests the Board arrived at the conclusion that the Krag-Jorgensen gun was best suited to the needs of our army and made an unanimous report to the Secretary of War to that effect.

The reason for this conclusion will be obvious to the reader. The so-called "cut off" forming a part of the Krag-Jorgensen gun was deemed an important feature, rendering the piece a readily convertible and interchangeable single-fire and magazine arm. An officer could glance along a line of soldiers and tell by their motions whether they were using the magazine or not.

It was doubtless owing to the lack of this additional feature which led to the adoption of the Krag-Jorgensen gun as against the Mauser.

Both guns have the sliding bolt for ejecting the empty shell by the backward pull, and pushing a cartridge into the receiver by the reverse action.

Smokeless powder cartridges were used in the Mauser and common black powder in the Krag-Jorgensen cartridges.

In actual practice during the Cuban war our guns made the better showing.

Much has been said about the use of explosive bullets during the Cuban war. No well authenticated cases of such use can be found either in this or any other war. In fact to those having a fair knowledge of modern warfare the use of such a bullet is deemed inefficient. Arms or bullets which kill outright are less desirable than those which disable or wound. If a soldier is disabled and carried to the rear he is a source of care and expense. If he is killed outright, he is of no further care to the enemy.

It has been truthfully asserted that the Spanish soldiers were in the habit of cutting off the points of the bullets, or sometimes grooving the points with a knife to compel them to flatten at the end, or "mushroom" when they hit an object. This is deemed an undesirable practice for the reason that a bullet thus treated is rendered uncertain in trajectory and range and of doubtful effect.

Quite a consternation has often been created in the enemy's camp by the use of "whistling bullets." By cutting a slit and raising a tongue from the side of a bullet it makes a very sharp, whistling sound as it passes through the air. The uninitiated usually seek cover when they hear these little birds sing for the first time.

Steel-coated cartridges are regarded with great favor by the best authorities. The coating is so thin that it compresses into the rifle-threads of the barrel, and is sufficiently thick to prevent stripping off and thus permit the lead of the bullet to clog and foul the gun.

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## FOOD SEASONINGS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AVE you ever thought of the many remote countries represented in the food set before you at an ordinary meal? If not, suppose you make a note of the courteous entertainers who strive to make your hour at dinner table agreeable and pleasant, and in imagination travel with them over the route from their homes to yours. Recollect all you can about their history and conditions and surroundings; even old friends usually grow on one with familiarity.

Pepper and salt are perhaps the most noticeable among them. These well-nigh universal spices have been long known and valued, and are among the most ancient of our entertainers. Pepper comes from the forests of Travancore and Malabar, whence it has been taken for culture to Java, Sumatra, Borneo, the Malay Peninsula, Siam, the Philippine Islands and the West Indies. For a long period the commerce between India and Venice, Genoa, and the commercial cities of Europe were indebted to it for a large part of their wealth. So great indeed was its value that in the Middle Ages the Portuguese were induced to seek a sea-route to India to obtain it; and so exalted that in 408 it became an article of tribute, Alaric demanding three thousand pounds as part of the ransom of Rome. Penang, Hanan, and Johore produce large quantities of it in the East, for which Singapore is now the great emporium; while tropical Africa is supplied from its native product, the Ashantee variety.

Salt is more widely distributed, and appears to occur in nearly every formation except the primary rock. Formerly, the salt of commerce was produced entirely from evaporation of sea-water, and this is still done on the seaboard. Now, probably more than half of the salt manufactured in the world comes from land deposits. Europe's famous salt-rock districts are the Carpathians, the Austrian and Bavarian Alps, West Germany, the Vosges, the Jura, the Swiss Alps, the Pyrenees and Spanish mountains, British salt deposits, and isolated deposits, and springs in Russia, Turkey and Italy; while America has inexhaustible supplies at many points. It is estimated that the entire ocean, if dried up, would yield nearly a million cubic miles of rock salt, or about fourteen and a half times the bulk of the entire continent of Europe above high-water mark, mountain masses and all.

In the early history of the world salt was often unattainable, and even now there are places in Central Africa and other remote places where none but the rich can use it. The Odyssey speaks of inlanders who did not even know of the sea, or of salt. In parts of America and India salt was first introduced by Europeans; and incense, the chief economic and religious necessities of the ancient world, play a great part in all we know of the ancient highways of commerce. In the United States much of our salt is obtained from mines along the Ohio River and in New York State.

The Banda Islands are chiefly known to us through their nutmegs, of which we consume more than all the rest of the western world. Almost the entire surface of the island is planted with nutmeg trees. The warmer parts of Asia, from an early period, have been the seat of the culture of ginger, which the Greeks

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19.)

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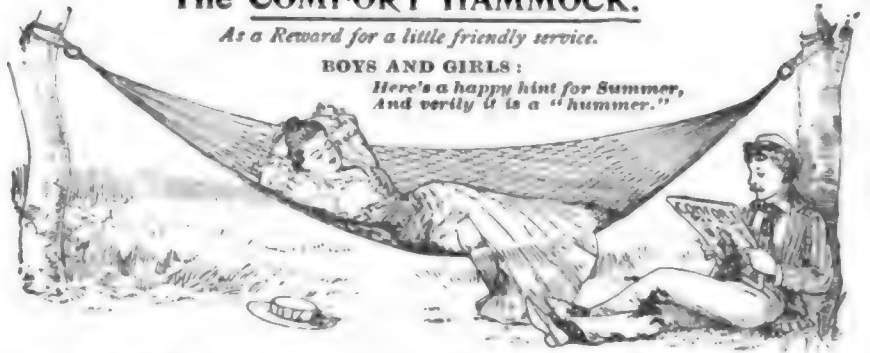
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A line drawing of a human hand, palm facing up, showing various lines and patterns drawn on it, likely representing a palmistry or fingerprint analysis. The drawing is simple, with lines indicating the major and minor lines of the palm, as well as some cross-ridges and other features. The fingers are also outlined, and some lines are drawn on them. The overall style is that of a technical or scientific illustration.



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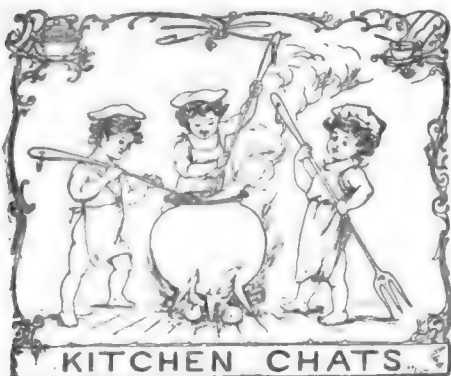
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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



**T**HE Queen of England, a royal housewife indeed, sets an example to all who have a household under their charge—for she is exceedingly particular as to cleanliness and order, in all of her numerous establishments, superintending all in a really wonderful manner, when it is taken into consideration that one of her homes—Windsor—has two thousand employees and dependents, and yet the greatest harmony prevails. Her Majesty is a kind mistress, and any servant who conscientiously performs his or her duties is sure of a place for life.

When we think of those women in less lofty station who have no time, so they say, to keep up their girlhood accomplishments, after marriage—no time for reading, study, or otherwise improving themselves and keeping up to the times, and then think of this woman who has the affairs of a great nation upon her shoulders and yet not only arranges the details of her great households and looks carefully after them, but in past years has kept up with her music, painting, reading and out-door accomplishments—then do we realize what a wonderful woman she is and feel quite ashamed of our own shortcomings with such an example of the true housewife to follow. Just because she has a great income is no reason, in her eyes, why she should not practice economy, and so she does, like any other thrifty and sensible housewife—paying her bills as she goes, wasting nothing and calling forth the admiration of all who are conversant with the facts.

Now that the value of fruits for a diet is so generally recognized, a suggestion as to the use of some of the common kinds, to which the majority of people have access, may be of value.

The apple is such a common fruit that very few people realize how efficacious are its medicinal properties—and yet every one should know that the very best thing one can do is to eat an apple just before retiring. It is excellent brain food on account of the large amount of phosphoric acid in easily digested shape; it excites the action of the liver and promotes healthful sleep. It is also a remedy for rheumatism, and aids digestion.

The lemon probably contains more valuable properties than any other fruit—as the rind, the juice and the oil are all very useful for food and medicine.

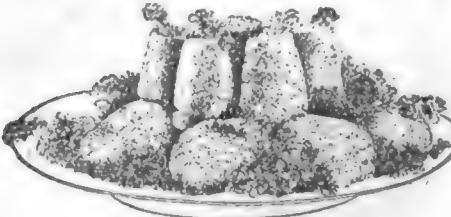
The banana is the daily bread of the inhabitants of the tropics, providing an abundance of nutrition. It is said that a given space of ground planted with bananas would produce one hundred and thirty-three times as much food substance as the same area sowed with wheat.

How many of our readers know exactly what rennet is, what it is for, and how it is made? It is made from the glutinous membrane covering the stomach of the calf, which is prepared to form a thick jelly-like substance. This is dissolved in alcohol and then is passed through a filter, and the result is a clear preparation known as rennet. It is most nutritious for dyspeptics and persons of weak digestion, and is also used by perfectly well persons, as a most delicious dish is made from milk thickened by rennet.

Regarding suggestions to the housewife, of which we spoke in our last Chat—re-curling ostrich feathers is something we all have to do occasionally. The best way to do this is to sprinkle a little salt over the feather before attempting to curl it; then hold it over a register or radiator until it is full of hot air, and then draw each tendril carefully over a blunt paper knife, or case knife. Don't try to curl them too tightly, as it is better to do them often, and so let them have the soft, drooping effect, so much more desirable than the tight curl.

Scorched linen may be restored to its proper shade by dampening it and laying it on the grass to bleach; it may be necessary to do this several times, but the stain will eventually disappear.

Bear in mind that an upright piano gives forth its best tone if placed at least two inches from a wall; also that no ornaments should be



SWEETBREAD CROQUETTES.

placed upon the top, as they deaden the sound and frequently produce a jarring noise. Never place a piano against an outside wall, for the cold and dampness are injurious; neither place it too near a register, radiator or stove, as not only the tone will be impaired, but also the case; put it, if possible, where the temperature is even at all times, and try to have it tuned twice a year, as this will keep it in good condition and so make it last for years—while a piano that is neglected in this respect will soon lose its purity of tone.

A small quantity of borax water should be poured down the kitchen sink each day, after the work is done; this will wash down all particles of matter collected in the pipe and keep

it sweet, as borax is a well-known disinfectant.

To prevent the shrinkage of flannel, put it while new into clear cold water and let it remain for a week, changing the water frequently. Then wash in warm water, using a little soap. Flannel thus washed never hardens nor shrinks.

To make a cement for china, beat lime into the finest powder, sift it through muslin and then tie some in a thin muslin. Apply to the edges of the china to be mended the white of egg and then dust the lime quickly on it and unite the pieces exactly.

One of the best ways of keeping cheese moist is to wrap it in damp butter muslin and keep it in a cool place.

To clean velvet, scrape pipeclay into a fine powder over the velvet and then brush it off lightly; this will raise the pile and improve the color.

We illustrate this month chicken and sweetbread croquettes, which are made as follows:

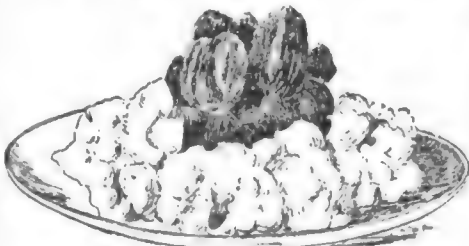
Cook, cool and chop the sweetbread, and add enough chopped chicken to make a pint in all. To one-fourth cup melted butter add one-half cup flour and cook until frothy; then add, stirring all the time, one cup chicken stock and one-third cup thin cream. Season with salt and pepper, add one well-beaten egg and the chopped meat. Cool and shape, roll in egg and bread crumbs and fry in deep fat. Garnish with parsley.

## CHEESE STICKS.

Mix three cups of grated cheese, two table-spoons flour, one teaspoon salt and a few grains cayenne. Add to this the whites of six eggs beaten until stiff. Roll on a board, shaping into short sticks; roll in crumbs and fry in deep fat.

Cheese sticks are usually served with the salad course, particularly with lettuce dressed with French dressing.

Two dainty desserts are stuffed figs and pineapple foam. For the former, select fine washed figs and make an opening in the side of each and fill in with a teaspoonful of chopped nut



STUFFED FIGS.

meats. Close the opening and boil the figs until tender. Five minutes before removing from the fire add a little sugar and the juice of half a lemon—to one pound of figs. Pile in the center of a dish and around the edge put sweetened and flavored whipped cream.

## PINEAPPLE FOAM.

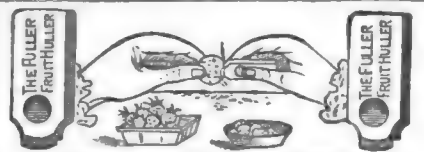
Prepare and grate a small pineapple. Beat one cup thick cream until stiff. Beat the whites of two eggs and gradually beat into them half a cup of powdered sugar; then fold in one cup thick cream beaten stiff and the grated pineapple. The juice of half a lemon should be added, as it improves the flavor. Chill and serve in glass cups.

It is said of the great singer, Sembrich, that she once, when living in Vienna, starved herself to hear Patti sing. She was, at the time, among the poorest of the poor, but so great was her longing to hear the wonderful voice of this gifted woman that she set herself seriously to work to invent ways and means to gratify her desire. She had no jewelry or anything else which she could sell, and in her little pocket-book was only barely enough to keep her in food for the two days that remained of the week. But she resolved to devote this to a ticket to the concert even if she had to go without food to pay for it. So she bought a loaf of stale bread and four potatoes, and with the remainder of her money she went to the opera house, and for six hours stood patiently in a long line of people, and at the end of this time was rewarded by getting a seat high up in the family circle. But she heard Patti, and nothing else mattered any more. She starved her body contentedly for a week while she fed her soul on her memories of Patti's glorious voice.

It was once customary in France, when a guest had worn out his welcome, for the host to serve him with a cold shoulder of mutton, instead of a hot roast. This was the origin of the phrase "to give the cold shoulder."

## Mexican Fiber Brush for Your Room.

Every room should have a whisk broom, to dust hats, clothes, etc. Straw brooms cost and wear out quickly. We have a practically indestructible whisk broom made of Mexican fiber. The best thing ever made, into brushes. Each brush is fitted in a neat, durable case worth fully a quarter. Agents selling these wonderful brushes make as high as \$15.00 a day clear profits. We will send one sample brush as a free premium to any one who will send us ten cents to pay mailing expenses and for a special three months' trial subscription to GOLDEN MOMENTS. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Me.



KEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAN.

## Our Strawberry Huller.

A simple little thing on which a patent has been applied for that will make you wonder why it was not thought of before, when you have once tried it. It saves time and temper, stained fingers and crushing of ripest fruit. Leaves the berry clean, neat and clear out and makes it look forty per cent. better in the dish. With one of these hullers any person can do the work nearly twice as fast and without any of the usual unpleasant features of this work. Every lady who tries this once in the berry season will never be without it again or allow her friends to hull berries with the fingers. One trial only needed. Agents can make a heap of money with these. Send for a trial sample which we will send, all postpaid and with a NATIONAL FARMER 3 months on trial subscription, for only 10 cents. Send 25c. for one year's subscription and we will send one-half dozen Hullers free; or send 50c. for two years' subscription and we will send 1 dozen Hullers postpaid. Address: NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

## A WOMAN LOVES.

A nicely furnished home, stylish apparel, or if possible an income of her own. These can be had of us, if she will devote a little of her time assisting us to further introduce our **WHITE BAKING POWDER**. We present a 2-quart Granite Rice Boiler Free to each purchaser of a pound of Baking Powder, bar Complexion Soap, box of Bilead (the THREE only 50c). To women willing to make up a club of 20 lbs we give a 56-pee Tea-Set or Guitars. For 30 lbs 75-pee Dinner Set or Day Clock. For 40 lbs, 100-pee Dinner Set or Gold-Filled Watch. For 50 lbs 112-pee Dinner-Set, 100 other Premiums. We pay freight (to distant points we pay part) and give ample time. **THE PURE FOOD CO. 562 MAIN ST. CINCINNATI, O.**

**SEND US ONE DOLLAR** and this ad. and we will send you this big \$25-1b. new 1899 pattern high grade **RESERVOIR COAL AND WOOD COOK STOVE**, by freight C.O.D., subject to examination.



**WRITE FOR OUR BIG FREE STOVE CATALOGUE** This stove is size No. 8, oven is 16 1/2 x 11 1/2, top is 42 x 23; made from best pig iron, extra large flues, heavy covers, heavy linings and grates, large oven shelf, heavy lined oven door, handsome nickel-plated ornamental trimmings, extra large deep, enamel Standish porcelain lined reservoir, handsome large ornamented base. Best coal burner made, and we furnish FREE an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner. **WE WANT A HUNDRED GUARANTEES** with every stove and guarantee safe delivery to your railroad station. Your local dealer would charge you \$25.00 for such a stove; the freight is only about \$1.00 for each 500 miles, so we save you at least \$10. Address: **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) CHICAGO, (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editors.)**

## A \$500 PIANO FREE.

Can you count the dots in the star on this Piano? If you can and your answer is correct you will receive **ABSOLUTELY FREE, This \$500 Grand Upright Piano** or its equivalent in cash. Everyone sending within one of the correct number of dots will receive a \$5 prize, and everyone sending within 10 of the correct number of dots will receive a \$1 prize. If more than one correct answer is received, the prize or its equivalent in cash, will be equally divided. We do not ask you to send any money, all we ask is that should you be one of the successful contestants, you will agree to sell six boxes of our famous **IVORY PILLS** at 25 Cents per box. Contest will close promptly at 12 noon, July 15, 1920, when the prizes will be sent to the winners. After you have carefully counted the number of dots send your answer to us at once. Everyone has an equal chance. Distance makes no difference. **Do not send any money** with your answer, but send a self-addressed stamped envelope, so that we can notify you at once. Address **BAY STATE DRUG & CHEMICAL CO., 42 Central St., Boston, Mass.**

**\$5 FOR A NAME, of a person afflicted with Cancer.** For full particulars write **D. W. MARTIN, Cancer Specialist, Bethany, Mo.**

**GOLD** Hunter's Guide Book, showing how and where to find gold, silver, copper, lead, coal, and all other minerals. Circulars, 2-cent stamp. **B. G. STAUF-FER, Harrisburg, Pa., Box C.**

## This \$1 Alvah Camera Free...

**A PRACTICAL WORKING CAMERA WITH OUTFIT OF MATERIALS FOR TAKING, MAKING AND DEVELOPING FIRST-CLASS PICTURES Given Away Free on these Easy Conditions.**

**THIS CAMERA AND OUTFIT COSTS YOU NOTHING**—We ask no money for it, but will give it to you free as a present for a slight effort on your part to increase our circulation. Send us 3 subscriptions to COMFORT, enclose with your letter the seventy-five (75) cents which will be payment in full for the subscriptions, and the camera and complete outfit, as here illustrated and described, will be sent you by mail or express (at our option) prepaid. All charges paid by us.



**THE ALVAH CAMERA** Takes Photographs, Landscapes—in fact anything—making a fine 2x2 picture, as good as many of the high-priced cameras. **THE ALVAH** comes with a complete outfit securely packed as follows—so that you are not compelled to buy an expensive lot of materials before you can take and develop pictures:

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1 BOX DRY PLATES 1 PRINTING BACK 1 PACKAGE DEVELOPER 1 INSTRUCTION BOOK  
1 PACKAGE SILVER PAPER 1 PACKAGE FIXING POWDER 1 PACKAGE RUBY PAPER

**YOU CAN EASILY GET THREE SUBSCRIBERS.** In these hard times many would feel reluctant about paying 50 or 75 cents or \$1.00 for a year's subscription to our paper, although there is no question that it is well worth that amount to anyone; but hardly any person will hesitate a moment over the trifling sum of 25 CENTS when it will purchase **A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION** to so valuable and entertaining a paper as COMFORT. At this very low price you need only to show a sample copy of our paper and you will secure three and even more subscribers right in your immediate neighborhood. Every member of the family is interested in COMFORT.

**HOW WE CAN MAKE THIS WONDERFUL OFFER.** We know that COMFORT is the best paper of its kind published, and we want to introduce it into every household in the country. We intend to more than double our subscription list in 1920 and take this unique and liberal method of doing it. Everyone now a days is interested in photography. Haven't you often wanted a camera to take the pictures of your friends and loved ones and the familiar scenes about the house? With the ALVAH you can do this, and we give you the opportunity of obtaining this up-to-date CAMERA FREE OF CHARGE. All you need to do is to send us three subscriptions to COMFORT, enclose the 75 cents payment for same and the CAMERA AND OUTFIT will be sent to you prepaid.

**THE ALVAH CAMERA** retails regularly at \$1.00, and is as good as any of the cameras that are sold at \$1.00 without the developing outfit. But we have made arrangements with one of the largest camera manufacturers in the United States to supply us with these cameras, at a figure which is a mere trifle above the net cost of the camera to the manufacturer. We give our readers the benefit of our advantageous contract.

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**ANYONE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER.** If you are already a subscriber send us the 55 cents and we will extend your subscription one year from the date your present subscription expires, besides sending you the entire camera and outfit. Address

(Subscription Dept.)

COMFORT, Augusta, Me.

## Some Unconquered Spaniards.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

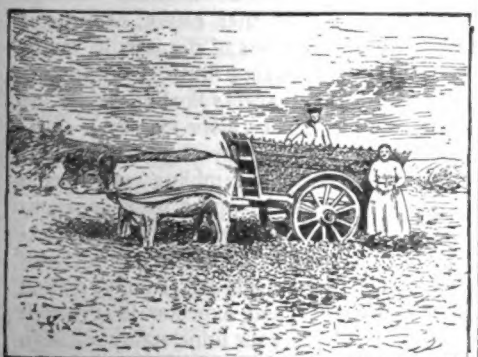


heat, cold, nor armies could conquer, and whose greatest joy was facing peril.

The Basques of to-day bear the stamp of this ancient people; in character, disposition, language and customs, they are entirely different from the Spaniards south of them and indeed they can be classed with no other race of the earth. Their earliest ancestors were probably the cave dwellers of the Alps and Pyrenees, whose bones are found in the caverns of the mountains, together with the remains of those gigantic animals which were the ancestors of our present quadrupeds. Only in this tiny country, among the mountains, have these sturdy, stalwart people succeeded in retaining anything of their own individuality. If this is their true origin, their earliest ancestors must have lived twenty centuries before Christ, and have been surrounded by a country different in physical features, and covered with plants and animals which have long since ceased to exist. Since those days long ago, their whole force has been used in fighting their way in the world, in trying to preserve their racial distinction. All previous to the Roman conquest of Spain is, as far as Basque history is concerned, a blank. Even the Romans found it impossible to conquer these sons of the mountains, who, when hard pressed by armies, or besieged in their fortified towns, dashed themselves from the highest rocks, and died by their own hands rather than surrender. At length Caesar, with great wisdom, made them his allies, since they would not become his slaves. As followers of his army they left their mountain homes and often the tide of battle and, indeed, the trend of history has been turned by their boldness and courage. A few centuries later, it was the Basques who fell upon the army of Charlemagne and brought death and disaster to the cause of the Franks. But no sooner had they established their claim to liberty with their northern neighbors than they were met by the Saracens, who had crossed into Spain from Africa. In overcoming these usurpers, the Basques took so active a part that they were all ennobled and now there is but one class among the Basques; to be a Basque is to belong to the nobility.

When the late queen, Isabella, came to the throne, the Basques sent to her the following message: "Senora, in a little corner of your kingdom is a people few, living in a poor and rugged region; we will be loyal to you, if you will, as we beg you to do, respect our fueros (parliaments) and the freedom which has never been impaired."

The Basque language is unlike any European tongue and is, in fact, almost unique, for it can scarcely be classed with any other language



IN THE FIELDS.

nor is any other allied to it. It is highly inflected, each word and even each letter of the alphabet being capable of change to express many different ideas. Students of the Basque language tell us that although it is the hardest of tongues to learn, it is the richest of languages. Until the fifteenth century there was no written Basque so, of course, the literature is quite unimportant. This is a matter of much regret for had this people written traditions of the far away centuries they might throw much light upon those early days.

There are three Basque Provinces, Biscay (Vizcaya), Guipuzcoa, and Alava. Each province has its parliament, chosen by its own people and there is also a parliament of the three, which decides the general policy of the people and deals with the Spanish government.

In the mountains there are rich mines of iron, lead and zinc and the valleys are sufficiently fertile to yield grain of various kinds. Along the sea coast the fisheries are extensive.

Perhaps the strongest characteristic of the Basque nature is his deeply religious instinct and his superstitious awe of natural forces. He seems at one time to have been a pure nature worshipper and now that spirit is caught and held in his Christian observances. Yet the Basque says, "We were always Christians." In parts of the provinces are still performed miracle plays, like the noted performance of Oberammergau, the subjects being taken from the Bible or from the legends of ancient Basque romance. It is considered a great privilege to be allowed to take part, and large sums are often paid for the honor.

Such are these brave Basques, Spaniards in name only; their history reaching far back into the dim days before history was, and their character changing but little as the centuries pass. In spite of all, and through all they have kept their liberty, their unity, though they have perhaps done so at the price of progress.

## TORTOISE SHELL.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



TORTOISE shell is one of those commodities whose intrinsic value is such that the real article will never be cheap. Beautiful in itself, rare and difficult to obtain, it will probably never be so common or of so little value as are silver articles at the present time.

The tortoise shell of commerce is the shell or epidermis plates of the hawksbill turtle—*Eretmochelys imbricate*—a species of turtle which inhabits tropical seas. This outer shell is in thin plates, beautifully mottled and shaded; these are removed from the living animal by subjecting it to a slow heat which loosens the plates, thus allowing a thin knife to be slipped beneath them. When thus removed they are curved and irregular in form, but are easily flattened by heat and pressure, and all irregularities are rasped away. They become very plastic when heated, and as the heat also softens and liquifies a sort of film or gum on their surface they can be readily welded and pressed together while warm, and so made of an increased thickness.

The quality of tortoise shell depends mainly on the thickness and size of the scales, and secondly on the clearness and brilliancy of the colors. The best tortoise shell is that obtained in the Indian Ocean, near Ceylon; but most of that which is made in New York comes from Cuba and South America.

Tortoise shell has been a highly-prized material for ornamental purposes from very early times. It was one of the most esteemed of the treasures of the far East brought to ancient Rome by way of Egypt, and it was eagerly sought by wealthy Romans as a veneer for their rich furniture. At present it is much used in the inlaying of cabinet work known as buhl furniture, and for combs, hairpins, knife handles, eyeglass frames, and many other small articles it is highly valued. It is of late closely imitated by a preparation of horn, which, when new and fresh, is difficult to distinguish from the real article. Indeed, there have been several deft imitations of tortoise shell—compositions of celluloid and other ordinary substances, overlaid and intermingled with a small amount of the genuine shell, which are well calculated to deceive the inexperienced buyer, and which cost far less than the genuine shell, which is very expensive.

A tiny box for lip salve, less than two inches in diameter, beautifully mottled and polished, but perfectly plain, brings seven dollars; a larger one, suited for my Lady's powder puff, costs her or her admirer the small sum of fifty dollars. Exquisite photograph frames, carved and polished, may be had for twelve or fifteen dollars. Fans with tortoise shell sticks, either carved or plain are "all the rage" at present, but one needs to be a millionaire to indulge in them to any great extent, as a single specimen costs anywhere from twenty-five to five hundred dollars.

Amber tortoise shell is much more sought after to-day than the darker shades. It is newer in fashion, and more difficult to procure, as there is but little of it. It is taken from the under side of the animal, and comes off in thin, scaly pieces, harder to work than the shell which is taken from the back. The amber shell is of almost uniform color, varying only with the age of the tortoise. It has none of the beautiful mottling and veining that form the chief beauty of the darker shell, and so is not nearly as handsome. Its scarcity and its consequent high price being the sole reason for its being sought after.

## HEAD RESTS

for Chairs and Couches are all the rage. We have a few dozen beautifully outlined, and some stamped in gilt and oil colors which we are ready to give you as samples of our goods. They were manufactured to sell at 25c. each. We want you to have one or more, and will send one, all charges paid, safely done up in our immense catalogue for only 8 cents. Not more than three to one person. Write quick to TAPESTRENE DEPARTMENT, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Many Japanese houses are put together without the use of nails, the timbers being mortised instead.



## MEN CURED FREE.

A most successful remedy has been found for sexual weakness such as impotency, shrunken organs, nervous debility, lost manhood, night emissions, premature discharge, and all other results of self-abuse or excesses. It cures any case of the difficulty, never fails to restore the organs to full natural strength and vigor. The Doctor who made this wonderful discovery wants to let every man know about it. He will therefore send the receipt giving the various ingredients to be used so that all men at a trifling expense can cure themselves. He sends the receipt free, and all the reader need do is to send his name and address to L. W. Knapp, M. D., 1309 Hull Bldg., Detroit, Mich., requesting the free receipt as reported in this paper. It is a generous offer, and all men ought to be glad to have such an opportunity.

Handsome Mustache or Lovely Hair Grown with our TURKISH HAIR GROWER in three weeks or money refunded. No more bald heads or smooth faces. We warrant every package and offer \$1000 for this is the quickest, surest, also harmless. Full treatment, 25c., 3 for 50c. Avoid dangerous imitations. TREMONT MANUFACTURING CO., STATION A, BOSTON, MASS.

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Medical and scientific men the world over stand aghast at the wonders being performed by this new and grand method. That it does the work has never been questioned for a single moment as prominent men and women everywhere endorse it. Rev. Jas. O. Swinney, founder of Pritchett College, Glasgow, Mo., after suffering for many months with bladder, stomach and prostate trouble, and failing to get even relief through old time methods, was cured by this great healer. Mr. J. B. Small, Colfax, Ill., was totally deaf in his left ear for three years. Was fully restored by Prof. Weltner in three days. Not only does Prof. Weltner cure hundreds of people at his infirmary at Nevada, Mo., but he possesses the remarkable ability to cure at a distance, and does this with the same wonderful ease. Hon. T. T. Rodes, Prosecuting Attorney, Paris, Mo., was greatly afflicted with sciatic rheumatism. He was restored in 30 days by absent treatment. Mr. H. E. Rose, Novelty, Mo., had a large goitre on his neck that was literally choking him to death. It was removed in a single night by this eminent healer without seeing him. Thousands, all over the world, relieved in the same manner. This is positively the only known method that will restore lost vitality and kindred troubles. A copy of the Magnetic Journal, a forty page illustrated magazine, giving a list of the most miraculous cures on record, will be sent free to any sufferer.

TEACHES HIS ART TO OTHERS. Prof. Weltner teaches his wonderful art to others, and it is the grandest and best paying profession of the age. Many of his students are making \$10.00 to \$50.00 per day. Taught by mail or personal instructions. Address, Prof. S. A. Weltner, Nevada, Mo. The American School of Magnetic Healing.

**\$2.50 TAN COVERT COAT** A STYLISH SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL OVER-COAT AND A WATERPROOF RAINCOAT in one. SEND NO MONEY, or but \$5.00 and we will send you, state your Height and Weight, state number inches around body at Breast taken over coat, close up under arms and we will send you this coat by express C. O. D. subject to examination. Examine and try it on at your nearest express office, and if found exactly as represented, the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of. And equal to any coat you can buy for \$5.00 pay the express agent and return the rest of our Special Offer Price, \$2.50 charges.

THIS HANDSOME COAT is made from a genuine HAINSEL plain medium TAN COVERT ENGLISH WATERPROOF CLOTH lined with a fancy plaid Hainzel waterproof lining, vulcanized by the celebrated Selkirk process, with the best English rubber compound to make it waterproof. IT IS A PERFECT, HANDSOME WATERPROOF RAINCOAT, and cut short and made single breasted, fly front, makes a very stylish overcoat for Spring, Summer and Fall. While lined and vulcanized for a waterproof Mackintosh, worn as an overcoat, no one can tell it from the most stylish \$20.00 Spring Overcoat. Fine Tailor Made, latest style for 1899, fly front, correct overcoat length, velvet collar, sanitary arm fittings. ORDER TODAY, DON'T DELAY. For Free Book Samples of everything in men's tailoring, SUITS \$4.50 AND UP, WHITE FORTYING IN MEN'S TAILORING, \$1.50 AND UP. FREE BOOK NO. 3E. (This firm is thoroughly reliable. Editor.) SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (INC.) CHICAGO, ILL.

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Introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail. We mean what we say & will give you the beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail. We mean what we say & will give you the beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail. We mean what we say & will give you the beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement.

**TEA SET FREE** 56 PIECES. Full size for family use, beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You cannot get a more beautiful china tea set & one dozen silver plated tea spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give you the beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail. We mean what we say & will give you the beautiful tea set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement.

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moon is conjoined with Herschel in the 3rd house and Saturn in the 4th house.

Mercury rules both the ascendant and midheaven, and is in the 10th in favorable aspect with both Mars and Jupiter, as also is the sun; the latter having almost the exact trine of the great benefic, stands in the house of the Nation's Treasury. This indicates the inflowing of liberal revenues and strong support to the National Administration and harmony between the governing authorities and the people.

Mars excites the military ardor and keeps alive the patriotic sentiment of the masses. Scholars and distinguished men meet with honor at the hands of the Government. There may be some scandalous developments growing out of private enmities between individuals in the civil government and the war service. There is also an indication of some bad pestilential disease during this quarter and the sanitary authorities are urged to be more than ever on the alert against the introduction of anything like yellow fever, especially during the latter part of the summer near the last days in August, being particularly careful that the United States Mails do not prove the channel through which some epidemic trouble is introduced. The last part of August seems to be peculiarly contributive to public excitement, and bad fires and explosions and railroad accidents are to be particularly guarded against at that time. There will be some trouble in our extreme northern possessions over disputed lands or boundaries and probably some serious conflict of armed men in those regions. Saturn in the 4th does not promise so favorably for the farming community in some sections and he is likely to give some cold and unproductive conditions such as to retard vegetation to some extent, particularly during the first two-thirds of June.

There will be two eclipses in June—a partial eclipse of the sun on the 8th and a total eclipse of the moon on the 23rd. Neither of these eclipses will be visible in Washington, our seat of government, though that of the sun is visible in Europe, Asia, and the extreme northeastern part of Russia. The eclipse of the moon is visible in Asia and the Pacific Ocean. The indications from all these phenomena are that there will be some unusual strife in the northern regions of Europe and Asia and particularly in the Northeastern and Eastern part of Asia, probably Russia, Japan and China, with probability of bad floods and disturbing earth phenomena there.

**CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JUNE, 1899.**  
**JUNE 1—Thursday.** This day has but little to recommend it, and conditions bid thee pause before engaging in any matter of importance; give thy landlord a side berth in the forenoon and noon hours, when all matters of real estate are best avoided. REGULUS desires to strongly impress upon the minds of all persons born in the first ten days of this month and of March, September, or December, of past years, the necessity for extreme caution in all matters pertaining to health and finance for several months to come; particularly should initiation of the new areas of management be avoided for time and the affairs of life be conducted very conservatively rather than with venturousness or aggressiveness. The late evening hours are the best in the day for any extended mental efforts and for correspondence of consequence and they should be given the preference over any part of the day for such work.

**2—Friday.** Aside from the general injunction contained in the preceding paragraph this day is a fair one, especially for movements in matters pertaining to great corporations or with National, State, or municipal authorities, and persons claiming this as the anniversary of their birthday, if of suitable age at this time, are likely to be more or less concerned with public or corporate affairs at this period in their life, out of which a certain measure of benefit will be eventually derived though attended with many hindrances and delays; as matters in such lives generally in this year abound in disappointments and have tardy progress.

**3—Saturday.** One of the best days of the month. Urges business vigorously, particularly such as concerns houses and lands; deal in such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool and grain and, with discretion, in mining and railroad stocks provided thy nativity is favorable also in this respect at this time; make contracts for building and repairing; deal with persons engaged in fiduciary capacities; purchase goods for sale again in the forenoon, when also, have thy dealings with persons of wealth or with banks or other monied concerns; experiment in chemistry, make engagements with machinists, manufacturers, and mechanics generally.

**4—Sunday.** Unfavorable for church matters; their pecuniary affairs are unsatisfactory for the day, or financial matters are adversely affected; the musical portion of religious worship will be most favored; the day is unfortunate in its tendencies in social matters and inclines to the pursuit of pleasure, which without unusual restraint will lead into dangerous walks; keep a healthy check upon excitable impulses.

**5—Monday.** Be up betimes and push thine efforts in nearly all affairs and matters of an intellectual and artistic character if now begun will be successful unless the nativity be very evilly afflicted; and even if such be the case, the time is probably as favorable as any that can be chosen in the passing days; press all engagements pertaining to literature and the fine arts, execute contracts concerning same; launch literary productions unless specifically advised otherwise in this column; engage with printers, publishers, travelers, teachers, and mathematicians and pursue all scientific researches; the afternoon and evening are fortunate for important moves with reference to music and the drama and also for social enjoyments, urging thy suit with the fair sex, and pleasure-seeking with moderation.

**6—Tuesday.** Bridle the tongue in the morning lest quarrels come; have no dealings with mechanics nor with builders; and generally conduct thine affairs with prudence and moderation, carefully avoiding hasty decisions and precipitate action; do not expect much favor from thy dealings with large corporate bodies, such as railroads, electrical companies, and City, State, or National authorities.

**7—Wednesday.** Urge general business during the day; prosecute mathematical and scientific studies; deal with the intellectual classes, booksellers, publishers, printers, judges, and lawyers; do not take the time, however, to change thy place of residence, nor for making any business engagement with persons handling patents or patented articles.

**8—Thursday.** Partial Eclipse of the sun. One of the most unfortunate days of the month. The forenoon particularly brings baffling experiences and is more likely to bring disappointment from the ventures then inaugurated; do not begin any journey in the morning hours and beware of incurring the displeasure of those in authority; the criminal classes will be unusually disturbed during the night hours between the 7th and 8th

and unfortunately moved to malice and violence; the vital energies will be low in such hours and sudden collapse in all serious afflictions is to be carefully guarded against. These suggestions are peculiarly appropriate for persons born about the 12th of January, 11th of March, 26th of May, 8th of June, 12th of July, 12th of September, 30th of November, and 10th and 11th of December, of past years, and such persons will need to exercise more care than usual this year and near this time as well as near their birthday anniversaries, in all their business ventures and in matters of health; ladies so born, are likely to be now in the midst of sad or trying experiences in family, domestic, or heart affairs; with the late hours of the day begin much improved and more buoyant conditions, in which the vigorous prosecution of affairs is contributed to.

**9—Friday.** This is a very favorable day, inviting business activity, travel, and pecuniary benefits from dealings with banks and wealthy persons; buy goods for trade; speculate, if thy nativity be fairly favorable; sign writings; urge literary and scientific pursuits and apply for favor and advancement in thy several stations.

**10—Saturday.** Conditions on this day are baffling and disappointing and matters of much moment are best deferred awhile; have no dealings with thy landlord nor with contractors, plumbers, miners, farmers, nor any engaged in the dirty or laborious occupations; the evening hours are rather more favorable and contribute enjoyment from the musical, artistic, dramatic, and social entertainments and engagements.

**11—Sunday.** The mind inclines toward the elegant in literature and imagination will be especially active, though church matters are not favored.

**12—Monday.** Keep thy tongue under due restraint during the better part of this day, nor be rash in decision in business engagements; quarrels and contentions are easy of birth and criminal activity and violence abound at this time; let all be careful in handling fire and explosives.

**13—Tuesday.** The inventive faculties are excited here to successful efforts; urge all commercial contracts and dealings with monied institutions; buy goods for trade and apply personally for favor from public officers, superiors in authority, and tradesmen; do not expect the usual pleasure from the drama or from the social or musical entertainment in the evening.

**14—Wednesday.** Give preference to the forenoon hours for the most important commercial or financial transactions, but have care as the noon is approached after which do not look for much consideration from employees of the government or of railways or other great corporations; neither should any dealings with usurers or very old or eccentric persons be had.

**15—Thursday.** This day is only indifferent in promises of good, and as the evening approaches it bids fair to be absolutely evil; let all be cautious during the latter hours of this day and the forenoon of the next for deceit and treachery are abroad; sign no deeds or notes nor enter into any contract of importance; such things are best postponed to a little; do not engage help or begin journeys. In the coming 24 hours bankers and merchants will be wise to scrutinize signatures on money writings. Some bad forgery or swindling operations come to light; nervous diseases are aggravated and persons having charge of the insane should be watchful of their patients during these passing days, being on guard against malice and cunning likely to be displayed by them; the intellectual classes and literary and educational interests have in the past week suffered unusual detriment; increased mortality and business embarrassments are likely at this time among the literati, especially apparent in the suggestions for the 8th instant.

**16—Friday.** As already pointed out, the forenoon of this day is evil and ought not to be taken for beginning anything of consequence; but as the noon is passed improve every moment in the pursuit of art, music, or any of the elegant avocations; deal in fancy goods and engage in works of decoration or adornment; have the social entertainment and seek pleasure from the fine art in every direction; urge thy suit with the fair sex and pursue all the artistic lines in the literary field.

**17—Saturday.** Choose this day for urging all honorable business to the utmost; for buying goods for trade and for money transactions generally; the merchant, tradesman, commercial traveler, and all engaged in literary pursuits or having employment concerning books are peculiarly favored.

**18—Sunday.** The best Sabbath day of the month, being excellent for improvement of the mind, propitious for religious exercises, and fortunate in a pecuniary sense for church matters.

**19—Monday.** Urge business of all kinds especially during the forenoon, preference being given, however, to such as depend upon mental labor. The day is especially favorable for literary work and prosecution of mathematical and scientific studies.

**20—Tuesday.** One of the depressing days of the month, in which it will not be wise to make any beginning of consequence, and in which only routine matters should have attention; beware of entering into any deal pertaining to real estate.

**21—Wednesday.** Be slow to anger during this day; beware of ligature of the contents of this time and be very careful if compelled to be about machinery and in the use of firearms or fires. To the fair sex the influences are ominous and REGULUS warns them against treachery and deceit, especially in matters pertaining to matrimony. Some scandalous report or revelation in divorce proceedings is likely to come to the surface here. The female sex meet strange and unfortunate experiences and encounter mischievous conditions for health. Proprietors of theaters and places of amusement should beware of making engagements on this day and should likewise be on the alert against fire and violence of the elements in these passing days. Marriageable ladies born about the 21st of February, 25th of May, 27th of August, or 26th of November, of past years, had better postpone for a season their ventures upon the sea of matrimony, for the social engagement or marriage now begun will be full of discord, disappointment, sorrow and unhappiness. Conditions also severely test the already existing marital and betrothal bonds of ladies so born and the greatest circumspection will be needed in all the affairs of their lives.

**22—Thursday.** Avoid thy landlord on this day nor have any dealings with contractors, miners, farmers, plumbers, plasterers, or builders. The day does not encourage making beginnings in any enterprise.

**23—Friday.** Total Eclipse of the Moon. The very early part of the day for money transactions, negotiations with banks and dealings with the wealthy classes; seek no favor from persons in public positions in the forenoon, but as the noon is passed bend every energy to the prosecution of thine affairs. The afternoon is full of energy and enterprise and invites activity in all the walks of life but especially for machinists, engineers, mechanics, travelers, surgeons, electricians, military men, cutlers, and iron and brass workers; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry with caution.

**24—Saturday.** The morning is very unfavorable for most undertakings, prompting rest rather than exertion and urging unusual caution in all acts, the avoidance of disputes or controversies and as much as possible all danger of accidents or hurts; let the tongue be kept well under control; the night and morning influences contribute to destruction and explosion, so have unusual care. Some bad disaster of this nature is likely in the passing hours.

**25—Sunday.** Rest late and look not for much satisfaction from pulpit utterances or religious discourses during the forenoon; though the afternoon gives much improvement in this particular and is the best part of the day for mental effort and the interest of all in the ecclesiastical callings.

**26—Monday.** Begin this day with the sun and improve every available moment, particularly in the pursuit of art, music, and in all the elegant avocations; deal in fancy goods and engage in works of decoration or adornment, especially such as pertain to houses or land; make engagements with architects, horticulturalists, and civil engineers, and deal with real estate men, miners, farmers, and all the classes concerned in building public works.

**27—Tuesday.** Have transactions with banks and monied men in the forenoon hours, but put on the "caution cap" as the noon hour is passed. The last half of the day is full of excitement and contention and it will require a cool head and even temper to resist being drawn into unpleasant controversies or predicaments. Persons born about the 18th of February, 23rd of June, 21st of August, 25th of October, or 22nd of December of past years, are likely to be now in the midst of more prosperous conditions and have improved health, while some temporary pecuniary embarrassments or unusual demands upon the purse, and in some cases, poorer conditions of health result to persons born about the 19th of January, 22nd of April, or 25th of July, of past years.

**28—Wednesday.** Make no engagements towards wedlock nor expect much success in the elegant pursuits or from the sale of dry goods or fancy or ornamental wares. REGULUS advises the fair not to let wealth tempt them to wed in these passing days, especially where there is much disparity of years between the contracting parties, for disappointment and unhappiness lurk in the background and are likely to fall to their lot, particularly if their birthday anniversaries fall upon the days indicated in the 8th paragraph.

**29—Thursday.** Be up before the sun and employ every moment of the day; literary labors are performed

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with more facility from the midnight until the noon of this day; the day should be chosen for dealings with persons in the government service or with persons in charge of large corporate interests; or concerned with patents or patented articles, or with chemists, druggists, electricians and manufacturing interests.

**30—Friday.** Choose this day for urging all honorable business to the utmost, for buying goods for trade and money transactions generally; give preference to the afternoon for affecting engagements of consequence pertaining to the artistic pursuits and to real estate and its improvements; also for dealings with farmers, contractors and builders, plumbers, ship-joiners, and agricultural implements and products.

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## Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Agnes Repplier is known and loved through her work by a large part of the reading public. Essays are still a popular form of reading to the thinking class of readers. Miss Repplier's fame has all been won in this line of work. Her views of life have a quaint original turn that is very individual. Her works include Books and Men, Point of View, Essays in Miniature, Essays in Idleness, In the Dozy Hours and Varia. Miss Repplier is a native of the Quaker city and her last work, which is a departure from her special line of work is called Philadelphia, the Place and the People. In this book, Miss Repplier shows a thorough sympathy and appreciation of the Quaker spirit. She says "They have had scant justice done them and I am glad to fight their battles." Miss Repplier's books show a very thorough acquaintance with literature. She is given to quoting, but always in a most happy manner. It seems strange that she was very slow in learning to read. At the age of eleven she was sent with her sister to a convent near Philadelphia. Miss Repplier is a convert to the Catholic religion and her first published work was in the "Catholic World." She will soon make a visit to Italy, and people to whom her essays give much delight will anticipate some sparkling work from her new experiences.

The late Princess Kalulani, or Miss Cleghorn as she became when the United States annexed her island kingdom, had much of the joy and sorrow, the pomp and the vanity of life crowded into her brief twenty-two years of existence. Her father A. S. Cleghorn was an Englishman who married Princess Likelike a sister of Lillioakalani then reigning Queen of the Paradise of the Pacific. The Queen had no children and as the line of Hawaiian descent is on the maternal side the niece became heir apparent to the throne. She was educated in England and possessed most of the characteristics of a high-bred English girl. She saw her royal claims set aside and from a princess became an American citizen. Much interest was aroused in her romantic story, and her sudden illness and death was much regretted in America.

Thomas Nelson Page is a typical American writer,—typical because it is one phase of this country that he shows. The South has found in him one of the most happy interpreters of "Dixie" Land. Mr. Page is a Virginian and related to half the aristocratic families of the state. One of his paternal ancestors was an intimate friend of Jefferson and on the maternal side he is descended from a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Page was a Richmond lawyer with no thought of a literary life when he was shown a letter taken from the pocket of a dead Georgia volunteer. The letter was from the man's sweetheart and stated that she would marry him if he would come home. The dramatic pathos of the situation induced Page to weave the facts into a story that he called Marse Chan. Scribner's Monthly accepted the story and gave the young writer \$80 for it, accompanying the cheque with a note requesting an article on the Yorktown campaign. Thomas Nelson Page was fairly launched on a successful career as a literary man. No one has more graphically portrayed the South. Among his best known books are: Our Little Confederates, Bevo' de War, On Newfound River and Pastime Stories. Mr. Page was born at Oakland, Hanover County, Virginia, on April 25, 1853. He is a graduate of the school Jefferson founded—The University of Virginia.

Manuel Asprios the new Mexican ambassador to the United States is exceedingly well qualified for his position. He speaks English fluently and has a wide knowledge of books, men and affairs. He is a recognized authority on international law and has published many

books upon the subject. One of these, "Rights and Duties of Foreigners" is widely known. He has been a Professor of Jurisprudence in the University of Mexico. He was born at Pueblo on July 9, 1836. He began the study of law but when the French seized Mexico he took an active part in the war. He was prosecutor in the court that condemned the unfortunate Emperor Maximilian to death. He became connected with the Mexican department of foreign relations in 1867. In 1872 he visited Washington as agent for the Mixed Claim Commission and the following year he was appointed Consul at San Francisco. He has been a member of the Mexican senate and was Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs when he was appointed as ambassador. He succeeds the late Senor Romero who with his charming American wife was so long and favorably known in Washington.

Mrs. Alice Meynell's name is not widely known in the generally accepted meaning of the term. In the inner circle of the literary world she is ranked as the foremost woman essayist and critic of the world. She has published little but as one English critic says "It is in her shortness that her genius appears." Mrs. Meynell's first published work was in 1875. Alice Thompson was an unknown writer and the modest volume of poems attracted little attention. At the time it was published Miss Thompson was living in Italy where she was educated by her father. Her essay "A Remembrance" pays a touching tribute to England where she became a frequent contributor to the periodicals. One of these "Merry England" was edited by Mr. Wilfred Meynell. The editor and his contributor were married and their home in Kensington soon became a literary center. John Ruskin says that some of Mrs. Meynell's poems are the finest things he has seen or felt in modern verse. Rossetti knew her sonnet "Renouncement" by heart and said that it was one of the three finest sonnets ever written by a woman. Three short books: The Rhythm of Life, The Colors of Life, and The Children constitute all of Mrs. Meynell's published work. Her genius is of the subtle and refined quality that escapes the attention of the masses but commands the unqualified praise of the most severely critical. To be a writer for writers is the distinction that Alice Meynell has attained.



Donna Amelia of Portugal is said to be the most beautiful Queen in Europe. She is accomplished as she is beautiful. The Queen of Portugal is a daughter of the late Comte de Paris. By a strange coincidence she was born on September twenty-eighth the birthday of her husband Don Carlos. The Queen is two years younger than her husband. Donna Amelia has other distinctions besides queenship and beauty. She holds a much coveted medal for saving life. She rescued two children from drowning in the Tagus. The Queen is an expert and fearless swimmer. She spends much time at Cascaes which is the seaside resort of Portugal. Here she may be seen, swimming far out where few dare follow her. She is usually attended by a cutter manned by blue jackets. She rides in the same fearless manner. Her expeditions used to take her "cross country" through the hilly, rough land surrounding Lisbon. Her court followed reluctantly but etiquette demanded that they attend where the Queen led. Donna Amelia is an earnest student, interested in deep theological questions and in medicine. She has passed the examinations in medicine before the faculty at Lisbon. She once attended a woodcutter who had received an injury. He deplored the fact that he could not pay his doctor but promised to bring some butter and eggs if she would leave her address. When he found that his physician was his Queen the house of Braganza gained one more faithful adherent.



E. T. Hooley, once millionaire, now is one of the most dramatic figures in the world of finance. His downfall stirred English society to its depths. Half the nobility of England trembled over the disclosures Hooley made. He calmly told of the thousands spent by him in bribing prominent men to give the use of their names as directors in the many schemes by which he made his millions. Hooley is not yet forty years of age. In an interview in the height of his prosperity he declared that he was never worried over any of the vast financial schemes that he was then undertaking. He succeeded by use of his wealth and his force of character in compelling some social recognition in England. He was a "promoter" and all of his schemes seemed to yield showers of gold until the crash came. He presented a gold service to St. Paul's; he proposed to devote the income of two million dollars to charity as a means of celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. At that time he declared that his only bother was how to spend his money properly. In his plan for charity he had fully outlined an old age pension scheme that had many admirable and practical features. Hooley left school when he was thirteen and while he attended school was obliged to walk eight miles a day. During the time that he was recognized as the Prince of Promoters, he worked from eight in the morning until ten at night and kept three secretaries constantly busy. He claimed to be the biggest sheep breeder in England. Farming was his hobby although he aspired to a seat in Parliament. He made money through the confidence which he inspired in people rather than through any real financial ability. He has a fertile and ingenious mind and it is doubtful if even his reverses will prevent him from coming again to the front.

Edwin Pugh is a young writer—young both in years and fame. He has grasped recognition in the face of very adverse circumstances. When but a child his father died and he as the eldest of a large family became the breadwinner. For fourteen hours a day he worked in an iron foundry but under these conditions and when but twelve years of age he sold his first story. He found a sale also for all the stories, poems and articles that he found time to write. At last he was able to feel that his pen could become his means of livelihood. The Man of Strow, King Circumstance and Tony Drum made his name known to the readers of England and America. His last book in which he collaborated with Mr. Charles Gleig is called The Rogues' Paradise. Mr. Pugh can feel that he has conquered fate in his struggle for recognition.

**BICYCLE FREE OR CASH TO ANY ONE** distributing my soap, etc. I trust you. F. Parker, 277 E. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.



**Our Pinless Clothes Line.** A Perfect Line that requires no pins and will not break. Sold only to Agents. PINLESS CLOTHES LINE CO., 100 E. Beacon St., Worcester, Mass. Sample mailed for 50c.

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with the following list of groceries; or \$1 and the goods will be shipped C. O. D. subject to examination. This is our

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51 lb. Granulated Sugar.....\$3.00	1 doz. Bottles Beer Ext.....	1 doz. Bottles Beer Ext.....
6 Cakes Toilet Soap.....	1 " " Phosphate.....	1 " " Phosphate.....
6 doz. Clothes Pins.....	1 " " Ammonia.....	1 " " Ammonia.....
5 Bars Soap.....	1 " " Bluing.....	1 " " Bluing.....
1/2 lb. Pepper.....	1/2 pt. Extract Lemon.....	1/2 pt. Extract Lemon.....
3 lb. Coffee.....	1/2 " " Vanilla.....	1/2 " " Vanilla.....
1/2 lb. Whole Nutmeg.....	1/2 lb. Baking Powder.....	1/2 lb. Baking Powder.....
1/2 lb. Ginger.....	5 lb. Starch.....	5 lb. Starch.....
2 lb. Tea.....		
1 Box Stove Polish.....		
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